



Wayne W. Ferris

May 17, 1919 - July 12, 2016

Wayne W. Ferris of Cadillac passed away July 12, 2016 at Samaritas Senior Living in Cadillac. He was 97.

Mr. Ferris was born May 17, 1919 in Cadillac to Sylvenus and Alice Mae (Jones) Ferris and they preceded him in death.

He graduated from Cadillac high School in 1937 and enlisted in the United States Navy in February 1942. Following tours of duty in Boston and Toledo Wayne was transferred to Washington, D.C. where he was accepted into the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI). Upon completing the Foreign Accounting course in Washington he volunteered for duty in the China-Burma-India Theater. Mr. Ferris spent 20 months in Bombay, India with the Naval Liaison Office, enjoying lasting friendships with several of the Indian people of varied social structures and culture.

Upon returning to D.C. he was promoted to Chief Yeoman and worked in the Captured Document section of the Navy Department. He often recalled his fascination in reading the transcribed diaries of Hitler's top military and civilian leaders.

At the Navy Department in 1945 he met Roberta "Robin" Adams, WAVE photographer, also ONI. They were married in Beardstown, Illinois on

May 26, 1946, settling in Cadillac.

Mr. Ferris returned to active naval services in 1947 and along with Chief Harry Wilson, USNR, assisted in procuring a U.S. Naval Reserve Training Center for Cadillac, at that time the smallest city to have such a facility.

He remained Stationkeeper at the Training Center through the Korean War years, returning to civilian life in 1952, after more than nine years of active naval duty. In 1959 he opened his own real estate office and received State and National awards for his newspaper ads. As a community service he helped purchase property for industries, local governments and numerous businesses.

Mr. Ferris enjoyed music; making audio tapes for friends and combining recordings into themes for their special day. He also enjoyed photographing nature scenes and writing stories for his grandchildren. He composed more than 500 word puzzles, which were mailed to friends and delivered to some local businesses. Wayne was interested in many sports; participating in several as a youth. He enjoyed bowling and was the first person to bowl a perfect game of 300 at Parkview Lanes in Cadillac.

He is survived by his children: Kim (Deborah) Ferris of Naples, Florida, Karen (Barry) Lempe of Cadillac and Ken (Jan) Ferris of Maineville, Ohio; grandchildren: Lauren Lempe of Manton, Campbell Lempe of Austin, Texas, Sarah Ferris of Maineville, Ohio, Amy Ferris of Maineville, Ohio, Amber Guarente of Tokyo, Japan .

In addition to his parents and wife he was preceded in death by his brothers: Lloyd (Luella), Russell (Eleanor) and sisters: Ruth Huffman, Ardys Kniffen and Jean Waters.

A time to share stories and reminisce with the family of Wayne Ferris will be

held from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, August 4, 2016 at the Fox Hill Event Center (7640 Mackinaw Trail, Cadillac).

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Salvation Army. Wayne often spoke of the support they provided the military men and women during World War II and Korea and have continued to do so around the world.

An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Tribute Wall

BW

“ I will deeply miss our cards and emails for the last 35 years! You are one of the best and I will miss you.

Barbara Wilson - July 22, 2016 at 04:26 AM

JL

I worked for you and Wayne Ferris at Ferris Real Estate in Cadillac, Michigan. I so enjoyed working with you both. I had wonderful, thought provoking conversations with him. He challenged me to think and question what I wrote as a poet. I'll never forget his gentle kindness and wisdom. It was an honor to have known him and the experience. Today, I was looking through a book he had given me and googling the author, which prompted me to look up Mr. Ferris as well.

Jeanne Langworthy - March 08, 2022 at 03:00 PM

BK

“ One of the nicest friends anyone might hope to acquire in a lifetime. We became friends through the written word, when I wrote for Cadillac News. He appreciated the tenderest words to the most hilarious, especially in poetry. My husband and I felt it an honor to know this kind man, who remained a faithful e-mail fan of mine while we became gypsies. May his family and friends all be comforted by knowing that he spread love around like fragrant rose petals.

Betty Kossick - July 21, 2016 at 05:03 AM

LW

“ I just read what Mike Holland wrote and this is exactly the way Wayne was. My husband , Chris Wilhelm moved to Cadillac Michigan in 1990 and rented the " Little Green Cabin" next door to Wayne. My husband moved to a bigger house in Cadillac for the following 17 years and always stayed in touch with Wayne. We moved to Atlanta 10 years ago and still stayed in touch with Wayne. He was a wonderful man. I too have read many stories he wrote about the war along with photographs when he was in India...I have to say I was very honored to be his friend. I was so sad to hear the news but I can't help but smile as I think of the joy and knowledge he brought to my life. God, watch over our dear friend, Wayne .

Leslie Wilhelm - July 20, 2016 at 08:09 PM

MH

“ One of the most entertaining neighbors I have ever had the privilege to have met. Wayne was a blessing to my parents (Marje & Herb) who lived across the road from Roberta & Wayne for many years. Years later after I left the nest, Wayne and I started to exchange emails in which I learned so much more about his life. He was very proud (and rightly so) about his service in the Navy. He wrote about his extensive and incredible travels while in the service. And the trials and tribulations he faced. Then came the old ' fishing' stories, the political jokes, and even some clever real estate ads he created. An incredible human being whom I will never forget. There's no question that GOD will have many chuckles when HE has a fireside chat with Wayne.

Mike Holland - July 20, 2016 at 12:24 PM