



## Mr. Claude S. Lawrence

November 22, 1926 - March 16, 2015

Claude Sellers Lawrence, age 88, of Marysville, died on March 16, 2015 with his family by his side. He was born on November 22, 1926 in Detroit, Michigan to the late Claude Bruce Lawrence and the late Cora Columbia Sellers Lawrence. He graduated from Walled Lake High School in 1943. He then entered the United States Navy and served in the Pacific on the destroyer USS Edwards from 1943 to 1946. On September 11, 1948, he married Alexa Maureen McManus in Orchard Lake, Michigan. He graduated from Michigan State University in 1950.

He owned Pengra Oil Company and its successor, By Lo Oil Company/Speedy Q Markets. He was a pioneer in the self-service gasoline business in Michigan. He was a member and past president of the Private Brand Gasoline Marketers, the Michigan Petroleum Association and the Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers. He was past Commodore of the Lake Huron Yachting Association. Member of the Port Huron Yacht Club, the Sarnia Yacht Club, the Seven Seas Cruising Association, and the Great Lakes Cruising Club. Claude won his class in the 1970 Chicago to Mackinac sailboat race. He was a longtime volunteer at the Great Lakes Maritime Center at Vantage Point.

After selling their gasoline business in 1980, he and his wife Alexa spent eight years touring the Caribbean and Mediterranean on their sailboat, the Phoenix. Their Mediterranean trip included two transatlantic crossings. Upon their return to the United States, he and Alexa enjoyed racing on the Sports Car

Club of America circuit, including the 1993 national runoffs.

After his wife Alexa's death in 2008, he married Joanne Boyd on January 16, 2010.

He was predeceased by his first wife Alexa, his oldest son, Claude Bruce Lawrence, and a granddaughter, Maureen Lawrence.

He is survived by his wife Joanne, his daughter-in-law Bonnie Lawrence of Lapeer, daughters Christine (Thomas) D'Luge of Lakeport, Catherine Fisher of St. Josephs, Cynthia (Robert) Fisher of Brighton and sons Charles (Barbara) Lawrence of Fort Gratiot, Craig (Patricia) Lawrence of Fort Gratiot, Curtis (Patricia) Lawrence of Port Huron, Cameron (Karen) Lawrence of Grosse Pointe Woods and step-daughter Jodi (John) Wunch of Fort Gratiot.

He is also survived by his grandchildren, William (Nicole) Lawrence of Howell, Erica (Shawn) Bashore of Indianapolis, Indiana, M. Kelly (Sara) Sax of Brownstown, Alison (Christopher) Mulliof Fort Gratiot, Tessa (Mark) Ernst of Grosse Pointe Woods, Kevin Lawrence of Fort Gratiot, Margaret Lawrence of Naperville, Illinois, Kyle (Amy) Lawrence of Fort Gratiot, Patrick Lawrence of Port Huron, Timothy (Chelsie) Lawrence of Port Huron, Cora (John Suchin) Lawrence of Lakeport, Claude (Emily) Lawrence of Columbus, Ohio, Alexa (Matthew) Mason of Denver, Colorado, Caitlin Fisher of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Cameron Fisher of Denver, Colorado, Christine Fisher of Howell, Courtney Fisher of East Lansing, Carolyn Fisher of East Lansing, Emily Lawrence of Flint, Nathan Lawrence of Grosse Pointe Farms, Benjamin Lawrence of Grosse Pointe Farms, Peter Lawrence of Grosse Pointe Farms and step grandchildren Sean (Pepper) Wunch and Elizabeth (Aaron) Howard. He is survived by great-grandchildren Brook Lawrence, Akayla Bashore, Alexandra Sax, Jason Sax, Erin Sax, Sydney Mullin, Andrew Ernst, Elle Ernst, Charlie Ernst, Saskia Epperlie, Freya Lawrence, Odysseus Lawrence, Andrew Blockeel, John Suchin, step great-grandchildren Journey Wunch, Dillan Wunch, Brody Wunch, and Randa Howard.

A Memorial Service will be held 12:00 p.m. Friday at Gateway Church of Marysville, 1234 Sixth Street, Marysville, Rev. Dallas G. Berry will officiate.

Visiting hours will be held Thursday from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Jowett Funeral Home, 1634 Lapeer Ave. at 17th Street, Port Huron and Friday 11:00 a.m. until the time of services at 12:00 p.m. in the church.

Memorial tributes may be made to the Port Huron Museum.

Veterans Honor Guard Alliance will conduct Military honors.

To view obituary and share memories visit [www.jowettfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.jowettfuneraldirectors.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 19. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Jowett Funeral Home and Cremation Service - Port Huron  
1634 Lapeer Ave.  
Port Huron, MI 48060  
(810) 985-5123  
jowettfamily@comcast.net  
<https://www.jowettfuneraldirectors.com>

## Visitation

MAR 20. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Gateway Church of Marysville  
1234 Sixth Street  
Marysville, MI 48040

## Memorial Service

MAR 20. 12:00 PM (ET)

Gateway Church of Marysville  
1234 Sixth Street  
Marysville, MI 48040

# Tribute Wall

JP

“ Dear Joanne and family,  
We are in Texas with Patsy right now, so will be unable to attend Claude's funeral. Please accept our most sincere sympathy on the passing of Claude. Although our interaction with him was short, we were thoroughly impressed by his loving warmth, sense of humor and graciousness. May God bless all of you during this time of mourning. May Claude be escorted to heaven by the angels and saints.  
Yours truly,  
Joe & Marilyn Pavlov

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Joe & Marilyn Pavlov - March 19, 2015 at 10:11 PM

PM

“ Dear, Chris, Craig and Charlie,  
  
I was in Toronto today and could not attend the Service today. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the rest of your Family. Claude really helped Haiti and I enjoyed bringing back a bottle or two of the Haitian Rum for Him. He was truly a very kind man and I did enjoy the times we spent talking about his sailing adventures.  
  
In my Prayers,  
  
Pat Moore

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pat moore - March 19, 2015 at 06:37 PM

Mary  
Creamer

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Lawrence family at this sad time. Believe it or not, I have fond memories of growing up across from the White Rose station on Water Street. I will miss his conversation and stories at the yacht club.

Mary Lou Creamer

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**Mary Creamer** - March 19, 2015 at 06:12 PM

DW

“ I don't recall ever meeting Mr. Lawrence, and if I did it was only in passing at the By Lo Oil Company offices. I have done business with Craig & Charlie for nearly 25 years. They were raised right, for sure. My birthday, 3/16/59, has just passed and so has this proud father of son's (not sure of daughters) and assume, a host of grandkids and maybe even great grandkids. I would have liked to have met and had a conversation with Mr. Lawrence, as I am sure it would have been quite enjoyable.

With my utmost respect and sympathies,

Dave Weisenburger  
Mt. Pleasant, MI

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**Dave Weisenburger** - March 19, 2015 at 04:27 PM

JF

“ Jason and Andrea Fletcher purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mr. Claude S. Lawrence.



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**Jason and Andrea Fletcher** - March 19, 2015 at 02:04 PM

TL

“ Tony & Jo Anna Liace purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mr. Claude S. Lawrence.



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**Tony & Jo Anna Liace** - March 19, 2015 at 09:59 AM

WT

“ I met Mr.Lawrence when i worked security at the AV maritime center. He told me stories about his sailing adventures. They were great to hear. I am sure he will be missed and God bless. William Trout

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**william trout** - March 19, 2015 at 08:03 AM

BL

“ 3 files added to the album Tribute wall



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**Bonnie Lawrence** - March 19, 2015 at 05:52 AM

SW

“ We will never forget Claude and Grams coming to visit us in Petersburg, AK. He will be missed. Glad we got to know him.



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**Shaun Wunch** - March 18, 2015 at 10:03 PM

PW

“ Pepper Wunch purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mr. Claude S. Lawrence.



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**Pepper Wunch** - March 18, 2015 at 09:57 PM

KW

“ Craig and Charlie: My condolences to you both and all your family on your Dad's passing. I will never forget playing hockey for Pengra Oil and your Dad picking me up regularly in one of his fuel trucks to get me to practice as I had no other means of transportation. I never forgot his kindness.

Sincerely,  
Ken Wakeen  
Cleveland Ohio

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**Ken Wakeen** - March 18, 2015 at 09:05 PM

SW

“ He will be missed! Glad we had a chance to know him. We will never forget the time he and Grams came to visit us in Petersburg, AK.



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**Shaun Wunch** - March 18, 2015 at 08:31 PM

DM

“ My condolences to the Lawrence family, may peace be with you during this most difficult time. Mr. Lawrence was a very nice, and interesting man who I enjoyed talking to @ G.L.M.C. He certainly was a people person, who could not enjoy talking to Mr. Lawrence? He was special, and will be missed by many.

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**d mills** - March 18, 2015 at 10:54 AM

TK

“ Thoughts and prayers to all the Lawrence family on the passing of Mr. Lawrence.

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**Tim Koerber** - March 18, 2015 at 07:18 AM

AM

“ *I miss you already Grandpa.* ”



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**Alison (Lawrence) Mullin** - March 17, 2015 at 05:33 PM

MP

“ *Charlie, I will remember your Dad as "larger than life". His personality commanded attention when he was in the room. I couldn't help but be drawn to him and listen as he spoke, he always had such a twinkle in his eye for life.* ”

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**Mary Polemitis** - March 17, 2015 at 04:24 PM

VM

“ *Valerie M. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. Claude S. Lawrence.* ”



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**Valerie M.** - March 17, 2015 at 03:51 PM

BL

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



**Bonnie Lawrence** - March 17, 2015 at 03:46 PM

BL

“ *Dad, I hope you and Bruce are sailing into the sunset. Love and miss you, Bonnie*



**Bonnie Lawrence** - March 17, 2015 at 03:31 PM



“ *Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of Mr. Claude S. Lawrence.*



March 17, 2015 at 03:03 PM

KL

“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Karen Lawrence** - March 17, 2015 at 11:40 AM