



Mr. Shirley W. Curtis

April 4, 1926 - September 7, 2015

Shirley W. Curtis, age 89, of Port Huron, passed away on September 7, 2015, in McLaren Port Huron Hospital, with his family by his side. He was born on April 4, 1926, in Port Huron, to the late Warren and Laura Curtis. He married Ella L. Coats on August 8, 1947, in Port Huron at the First United Methodist Church, having just celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary.

Shirley served honorably in the U.S. Navy, during World War II. He worked at Mueller Brass, for 45 years. He was President of the Quarter Century Club. (The only non-management President to serve). He played baseball in the city league, church league, slo ball for the industrial league. Bowled on the Mueller League and the Masonic League, for many years, now he plays golf. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, where he sang in the church choir and was in the Men's Method Aires choir, for over 30 years. He also taught Sunday school class and helped with the children under five, for many years.

Shirley was the recreation chairman, for many years, coaching and managing boys and girls basketball teams and boys softball. Both boys' basketball and softball teams went on to the state finals. He helped with the city recreation, as a referee, for girls' basketball, he also had Girls Athletic Association (GAA), at Garfield Junior High, for many years. He coached and managed girl's baseball teams, for years, also managed men's baseball teams, in the city league. He coached and managed little league teams, for 15 years, and was instrumental in building the Little League Park. He also helped with football at

Garfield Jr. High School, Chippewa Jr. High School and Port Huron High School. He was a sports booster at Port Huron High School from 1969 -1973, a band booster for the Port Huron Big Red Marching Machine from 1969 – 2002, and still helped with the concessions and was a chaperon, traveling with them to the Olympics.

Shirley had been active in the Democratic Party, for countless years, having served as Treasurer and Vice Chairman of the St. Clair County Democratic Party, for years and was an Executive Board Member of the 10th District Executive and State Central Member. He received a special service award for St. Clair County Democratic in 1990, received continuing service awards in 1995. In 1992, he received a Special Service Award from the 10th District. He was a delegate for the National Convention in 1988, in Atlanta, Georgia. He also attended the Inauguration, in Washington, D.C. for President Clinton, in 1996.

Shirley belonged to Local 44, and served as Steward, Vice President and Committee member, for years.

He was chairman of the St. Clair County Cap Council, a delegate to the National Cap Council, held in Washington, D.C., every year and was an Executive Board Member of the Michigan Cap, and still was a General Board Member of Michigan AFL-CIO.

Was an Emeritus Board Member of the Port Huron Masonic Temple, serving as President in 1984 and was very instrumental in rebuilding the building, after the fire in 1987. He joined Smiths Creek Lodge #491, in 1960, received EA Degree on July 8, 1960, FC Degree on September 9, 1960, and was raised to Master Mason on October 21, 1960. He served as Master in 1968, was Mason of the Year, in 1986. In October of 2011, he received his 50 year pin. Shirley served as Treasurer, Trustee and Chairman of the Smiths Creek Chicken Dinner, for many years.

He was High Priest of Huron Chapter, in 1972 and was active with the International Day with Sarnia. He also helped with Demolay. Shirley had received the Meritorious Service Award (bronze) of the Year Award from

Grand Chapter. He also served on the registration for Grand Chapter, for the past 11 years.

Shirley received the Order of Red Cross on January 11, 1974, the Order of Malta, on January 18, 1974, and was knighted on January 25, 1974. He served as Commander for the year 1982, he was also Captain General for many, many years and was made Captain General, Emeritus, on October 10, 2007. Shirley was also Captain General for the Eastern Michigan Battalion, for a number of years. In Council, Shirley was T.I.M., for the year 1992 and received the Purple Trowel Award. He received The Purple Cross, in Tulsa, Oklahoma

Shirley was also a member of High Twelve, Past Commanders Club, Tall Cedars, St. Clair York Rite College, Bark River 13,13. Moslem Temple, Blue Water Shrine Club, Grotto, York Rite Cross of Honor, the Scottish Rite and Scottish Rite Club, Blue Water Priory #22, Past Master's Club, the Elks and the Moose.

He is survived by his wife, Ella of Port Huron, son and daughter-in-law, Greg and Joyce Curtis of Lake Mary, Florida, granddaughter, Jessie Curtis (Andrew Colon) of Waleska, Georgia, 3 great grandchildren; Amelia, Andrew Jr., and Analiese, brother, Gerald (Ruth) Curtis of Port Huron, brothers-in-law; Richard Coats of Port Huron, Timothy Coats of Port Huron, sister-in-law, Lois Coats of Port Huron, along with several nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

He was preceded in death by a son, Michael, in January 1969, 2 brothers; Norm and Ed, 2 sisters; Margaret and Ila, a brother-in-law, Max Coats and a sister-in-law, Karen.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, at 11:00 am in the First United Methodist Church – 828 Lapeer Avenue, Port Huron. Reverend Bill Wright will officiate. Burial will be in Lakeside Cemetery. Visiting hours will be Friday, from 4:00pm – 8:00pm in the Jowett Funeral Home – 1634 Lapeer Avenue, Port Huron and again on Saturday, from 10:00am until time of service at 11:00am,

in the church. Smiths Creek Masonic Lodge #491 F.&A.M. will conduct a masonic service at 7:00pm in the funeral home on Friday.

Pallbearers will be - Bill Herlihy, Patrick Parcell, Clint Sharrard, Clarence Spencer, Carl French and Lou Stevich.

Veterans Honor Guard Alliance will conduct military honors.

Memorial tributes can be made to: First United Methodist Church or the Kidney Foundation of Michigan.

Cemetery Details

Lakeside Cemetery

10th Ave.
Port Huron, MI 48060

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **11**. 4:00 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

SEP **12**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
828 Lapeer Ave
Port Huron, MI 48060

Funeral Service

SEP **12**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
828 Lapeer Ave
Port Huron, MI 48060

Tribute Wall

DA

“ Dear Ella and family. Judy and I send our sympathy to you on your loss. Shirley was a wonderful, kind, and descent man. I remember fondly his strong handshakes and Ella's fabulous hugs. Ella you and Shirely gave so much to our campaigns. For 26 Years you were both always a part of the Bonior team and before me for Jim O'Hara. Democrats throughout Michigan were the recipients of your hard work and commitment to justice. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.
David and Judy Bonior

davidebonior@gmail.com - September 11, 2015 at 10:33 AM



“ Shirley was a good friend of the family! I remember him quite fondly! My dad and him worked, part of the cap council and democratic party together. My condolences to a great lady Ella. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Kelly Wells - September 11, 2015 at 07:38 AM

WM

“ When I was a kid it seemed like I had a whole bunch of Aunts and Uncles. Grandma and Grandpa Morris lived on one street and Warren and Laura lived directly behind them. When my dad would take me to Grandma's house the Curtis's were always around. Norm, Ed, Shirt and Jerry were really like uncles to me. I can still remember the fun we had at the family reunions held in Marysville Park. Everybody was there. Back then kids knew their cousins, second cousins and even third cousins. Unfortunately it is not that way today.

When I took my first deer hunting trip to McKinley it was with the Curtis's. It was the third or fourth day of the gun season and my mother wanted to surprise my dad by sending me up to camp. I can still remember Shirt giving me pointers on how to hunt the "big woods". Boy was my dad surprised. Deer camp was the greatest. I can still remember Ronnie walking around the camp in the early morning yelling "daylight in the swamp". Or Tommy telling Ronnie if he walks by his stand one more time he might get shot instead of a deer. And the women were there too. Cooking, cleaning and tending to "women's business". And yes, even doing some hunting. It was a different type of camp back then.

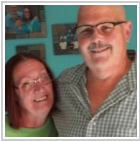
I have nothing but fond memories of Shirt and the times we and all the family got together. I am sure that Shirt, Norm, Ed, Skin, Harold, Spud, Spurgie, Kenny, Grandpa Tom, Ronnie and others are getting ready for the fall deer camp up in heaven. I am also sure they will prepare a place for the rest of us when our time comes. Mary and I want Ella and the family to know that our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Wesley Morris - September 10, 2015 at 12:39 PM

KD

“ I first met you when Greg introduced us freshman year of high school. He introduced you as Dad and you were Daddy Curtis from that day on. Loved you to the moon and back and the world is a little duller now that you are gone. But I know you are with my Mom and Dad now and remembering all the fun times. Hugs and Love to Mom Curtis and Greg.

Katie DeVeney - September 10, 2015 at 12:11 PM



“ In the short time I was honored to know Shirley he taught so very much how to be a Man and a Mason. I will always cherish his jokes and laughter.

R.I.P. W.B. Shirley

Hugh and Maggie

Hugh Keller - September 09, 2015 at 05:18 PM

Jessie Curtis

“ You couldn't spend much time around my grandfather without smiling. I loved the way he whistled all the time. It is one of the greatest joys of my life that I got to see my grandpa down on the floor playing with my kids just like I remember him doing with me when I was young. The world was always a little brighter with him in it.



Jessie Curtis - September 09, 2015 at 02:54 PM

JS

“ *Ella, I am so very sorry. Loved all of the band trips when we traveled together. Love to you and your family. xoxo*

Jessie (Mickey) Strobbe - September 09, 2015 at 02:54 PM

BM

“ *RIP Uncle Shirt. Our families have been friends for along time. I have a lot of fond memories of both you and Aunt Babe. Ill never forget the hunt out in Wyoming and the fun we all had doing it. To the Curtis family may your pain be short and your good memories be long. God Bless*

Bruce and Lora McFadden

Bruce McFadden - September 09, 2015 at 02:36 PM

LC

“ *"Aunt" Ella, I am so sorry for your loss. I have so many wonderful memories of you and "Uncle" Shirley, including Commandery trips and Shirley singing in church . I feel so fortunate to have had both of you in my life. I am keeping you and your family in my prayers.*

*With sympathy and love,
Linda Campbell*

Linda Campbell - September 08, 2015 at 04:57 PM



EP

Babe and Greg, So sorry to hear of the passing of Shirt. He was a great friend, and a loyal never tiring Band Booster for my Big Red Marching Machine for over a decade. What would I have done without Shirt and his truck hauling a lot of our instruments and drums in his truck on our band trips? He had such a great sense of humor, and I never once saw him lose his temper---although I must have tried him at times! My love and prayers go out to Babe and Greg. Goodbye old friend! Eric Payton

Eric Payton - September 11, 2015 at 01:55 AM