



## Glenn E Gardner

May 4, 1929 - November 9, 2017

Loving husband of the late Therese. Beloved father of Sandra (John) Olechowski, Jacqueline (Robert) Bare, Donna (Joe) Kolasa, Lynn (Mike) Schlegelmann and Glenn (Shari) Gardner. Dear grandfather of Brysen (Cameron) Frey, Samantha (Daniel) Gates, Robert Bare, Chadd Schlegelmann, Scott Kolasa and Allison Gardner. Great-grandfather of Noah Frey, Deacon Frey and Brenden Bare.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Mass

DEC 1. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church  
4580 Adams Rd  
Troy, MI

# Tribute Wall



“ *Glenn E Gardner*

October 23, 2023 at 04:00 AM



“ *Glenn E Gardner*

January 06, 2023 at 05:24 AM

“ My Dad

*On May 4, 1929 my dad was born. He was born in the house he was raised in on a street in Detroit, Woodlawn. He was the third child of five. He had an older brother Bill, an older sister Evellen, a younger brother Jimmy and a younger adopted sister Gail. Dad grew up during the hardest years of the Great Depression. Food was sparse as work for his parents was hard to come by. Summer's for my dad were spent in Paducah Kentucky with his dad's side of the family. Mostly dad spent his time down there working on his uncles farm where the labor was hard but the food was plentiful. But more than the food and labor dads love for Kentucky and his family down there stayed with him without his life.*

*My dad dropped out of school at the end of his eighth grade year. He went to work to help support his family. Dad mostly worked in garages and gas stations. He also worked in bowling alleys reracking pins by hand. In the early 1940s bowling alleys weren't automated yet. Pins were reracked usually by a young kid. By the time my dad was 16 closer to 17 he got in trouble with the law for beating up a bully. The judge gave my dad the choice of prison time or he could enlist in the army (with his parents signed consent). It was 1946, WWII was technically over but there was still a need for soldiers as the world was transitioning from war to peace. Dad served in active duty for approximately 18 months. He was stationed in Japan as guard on a large base. Dad received a few medals of honor while enlisted. When he got out dad went to night school & eventually earned his GED. One could easily say dad went into the army as a young immature boy and came out A man. He seldom complained about those years in fact if I had to weigh it out I'd say he bragged about those years far more than complained. It was an honor for him to serve our country.*

*Not long after getting out of the army my parents met at a roller rink in their neighborhood. I was told this story in 1983 by our Uncle Whitey. My mom was skating with her sister Elsie and my dad was*

*at the roller rink with uncle Whitey. Uncle Whitey told my dad to marry Theresa and he would marry Elsie then they would become brother in laws. True to their word, Uncle Whitey married Aunt Elsie & my dad married my mom on May 15, 1954. Almost 9 months to the day they became parents to the first of us five kids. They had four daughters and then finally a son. By the time Glenn, my brother came around my dad was so used to having daughters that when the doctor came out after Glenn's birth and told him that mother and baby are doing well he assumed he had another daughter. Once he got to see my mom it was she who told him that they finally had a son.*

*Raising five kids is no easy task but my parents did the best job they could. One of the things my dad enjoyed a lot was taking to the road with the travel trailer in Tow and camping with us kids. Some of my best memories with my family were when we were camping. Somehow our parents managed to scrape up enough money year after year to take us on at least one vacation every summer. When Glenn started scouts my dad got involved by participating in some of the scout camping trips. One morning while making pancakes for the boys dad added a can of beer to the mixture. This was my dad's normal way of making pancakes. Those boys loved them. Their parents however did not. Dad was taken off pancake patrol from then on.*

*My dad worked for GM from 1957 to 1987 when he finally retired. My dad could fix just about any American made car. A few years back country singer Alan Jackson published a song called HOME that could've easily been written by my brother Glenn. These were some of the words:*

*My mama raised five children  
Four girls and there was me  
She found her strength and faith of God  
And the love of family  
She never had a social life  
Home was all she knew*

*Except the time she took a job  
To pay a bill or two*

*And my daddy skin his knuckles  
On All the cars that he repaired  
He never earned much money  
But he gave us all he had  
He never made the front page  
But he did the best he could  
Folks drove the cars from miles around  
And let him look underneath the hood*

*Our family, all seven of us lived in a house in Roseville that was under 900 Square feet and on a 40 foot lot with an unfinished second floor. We had one bathroom and an enclosed toilet in the basement. We outgrew that house many years before we actually moved to a larger one. And house size wasn't the reason we finally moved. You see, When my sisters started driving & purchasing cars my dad said they couldn't park a car worth a darn. So every night before going to bed my dad would gather all their car keys and rearrange the cars according to who had to get out first in the morning. With the travel trailer in the driveway during the warmer months our household had five cars within it. The driveway couldn't handle that. We finally moved to a house in Sterling Heights on a 1 acre lot with a circular drive. Dad never had to rearrange cars again & my sisters learned how to park a car!*

*Although the new house seem to accommodate our family far better than the Roseville house did years slipped by fast and we were moving out, getting married and having our own families. Mom and dad eventually sold that house and moved to Caseville.*

*That's where they got to really enjoy the grandchildren. When my parents became grandparents it was the happiest moments of their life. My mom used to say if she had known how much fun grandchildren were she'd would have had them first. To you grandkids, Having you in their lives gave them a front row seat to all*

*the important events in your life. Although grandpa has some pretty large shoes in which you may or may not be able to fill, you as his grandchildren have the right to walk in his foot prints. Brysen, Sammi, bobby, chadd, Scott & Allison you have a very unique opportunity here to carry on grandpas legacy long after we, your parents are gone. Tell his stories, share his pictures & keep him alive in your heart throughout the rest of your life.*

*I have a funny grandpa story. This one involves Brysen. Thanksgiving 2007 I convinced dad to fly to Texas with me to visit Her. She had moved down there in late August to go to college. While going through security Dad's toothpaste got taken because it was too large. That was the first thing that ticked him off. Once in the air a storm got stuck over Houston. So our plane kept circling the airport until we started running low on fuel. We landed in San Antonio and got fueled up. While sitting there on the runway dad took off his seatbelt and declared he was getting off the plane. I told him we needed to be at a gate in a terminal to get off. He said he could get off if he really wanted to. I said and you will be arrested. He sat back down. When we finally got to Houston and eventually to Paul and Darlene's house Brysen's new car a Toyota Scion was parked in their driveway. Dad saw that car and asked why the heck did she buy a rice burner? While in Texas Brysen told grandpa & I that her GPS in her car had recently been stolen. My Dad went to RadioShack the next day and bought her a brand new one. He was so kind & generous like that. Brysen also told us that the Jimmy she drove down there needed to go back to Michigan because she had nowhere to park it. Dad saw his way out of getting back on the plane to go home. He drove that Jimmy back to Michigan. He & mom truly loved their grandchildren.*

*These last few years with dad have been the most challenging and painful for him and for all of us. Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's and dementia is just awful. The dash that I spoke of earlier in dad's life should never include suffering like that. My dad was a strong, solid, sturdy, kind, confident man who had a beautiful soul. He was a man who wore many hats in his lifetime. His last hat as patient at*

*a nursing home was my least favorite.*

*For the newest members of our family, Jessica, Cameron, Daniel, Noah, Deacon and Brendan I truly wish you could have known grandpa and pa pa GG before he got so sick. I know in some sort of way he loved all of you and would be truly proud of his granddaughters & grandsons choice of husbands and girlfriends. As for the great grandsons, he knew you were part of him. His visits with Brendan were precious and brought a smile to his face and a light in his heart. On Noah's last visit with Pa Pa GG this past July I put Noah's little hand in one of dads good hands. Dad tried to hold it but his body limits prevented it. Then it happened, there was that single tear that rolled down his cheek. It let us know that dad understood that moment. That single tear was full of emotion, energy, grace and pure love.*

*So back to the dash I previously spoke of. I took part of this next excerpt from Mike Heck's wedding speech on The middle. He said this speech at his brothers wedding:*

*Family sometimes meant we don't always get what we want. Parents don't get what they want either. Many times in our life our Dad was stuck under the hood of one of our broken down cars in 20 degree temps. I'm sure he'd rather be in a nice warm bed watching TV. But that was our family. A bunch of people not getting what they want. We ticked each other off, we said horrible things, we made each other cry and there is no one in the world who will make you more miserable than your family. But at the end of the day there's no one else in this world who gets you better than your family. The point here is that my dad has a dash now May 4, 1929 dash November 9, 2017. That dash represents his life, his family, the good and the bad, the love, the tears, the kindness & the bitterness, all of what I just read to you and so much more. I know for sure that his family, his mom & dad, his siblings, our mom, the five of us, our spouses, the grandkids, their spouses, the great-grandkids, our aunts, uncles, cousins and friends were & are the love of my dads life, they are the dash, you all are the dash. That dash is on the*

*epitaph of my dad, the story of my dad and that means something, no that means everything. We can all honestly say he was loved and he knew how to give love. God bless all of you for caring and being a part of my dads life and most of all God bless you for loving him.*

Lynn - April 27, 2018 at 08:37 AM

KT

*“ I remember going to hang out with Glenn and Mr.Gardner opening the door to tell me exactly what was wrong with my car before I could even open the hood. He was an amazing man. He will definitely be missed. Keith&Sandy Taylor*

Keith taylor - November 30, 2017 at 08:52 PM

LY

*“ 2 files added to the tribute wall*



lynn - November 27, 2017 at 03:33 PM

LY

*“ 1 file added to the tribute wall*



lynn - November 27, 2017 at 03:31 PM

BR

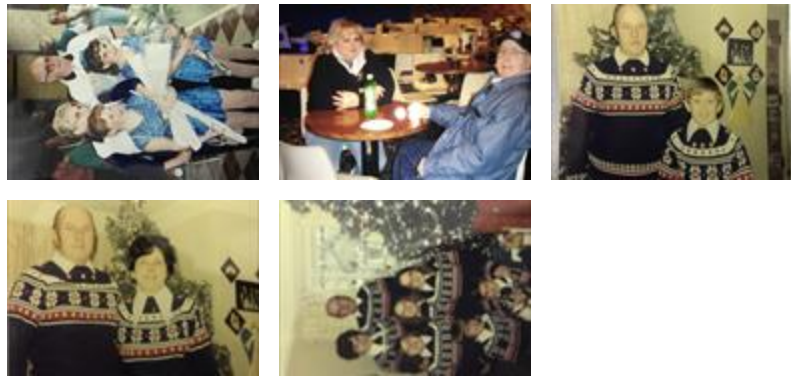
“ Dear Sandi, Jackie, Donna, Llynn, Glenn & all the dear family, Our condolences & prayers on this sad occasion. On, November 9, 2017 your loving father entered eternal life; his first day with GOD forever! May our loving God bless all of you with His healing comfort & peace. Your wonderful parents are in our hearts & prayers forever. With our love & prayers. Aunt Aurora & Uncle Ben

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**Ben & Aurora Riss** - November 20, 2017 at 01:29 PM

LY

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



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**Lynn** - November 19, 2017 at 06:48 PM

MA

“ I want to send my condolences to Glenn Gardners family. He was the funniest man I ever knew. I wish he could of been my grandpa. I will miss him and the family. He always told me to call him big daddy. See you again in heaven big daddy. It gave me great pleasure to know that I was able to take care of him at the end of his life at Cherrywood. Love Melanie

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**Melanie Andres** - November 17, 2017 at 01:25 PM

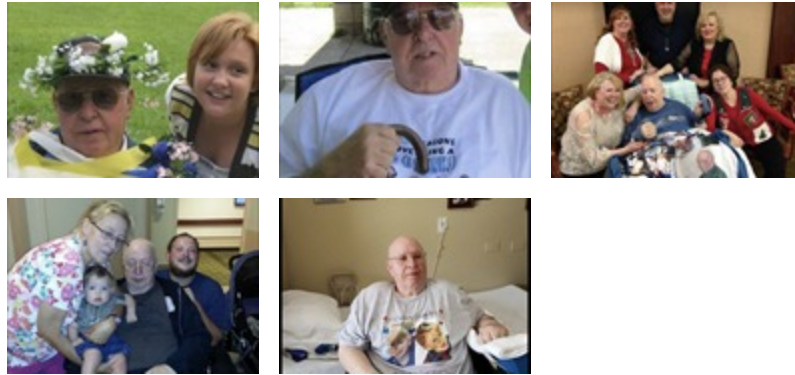
TO

“ I remember bowling with him and the seniors at van dyke bowl really nice man loved kathy aka katie that's what he called rral generous and kind rip my freind

Tom - November 17, 2017 at 08:21 AM

LY

“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Lynn - November 17, 2017 at 06:20 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Glenn E Gardner.



November 14, 2017 at 11:01 AM

MS

“ I just found out about Glenn's passing. My condolences from a long ago neighbor from Roseville, Mike Soresi, Maria's brother. I always looked up to Glenn because he took the time to be a mentor to some of us kids. I remember working on cars in the back yard with Glenn. He showed us how to do tune ups and engine overhauls. He never yelled at us when we made a mistake and always showed us the proper way to do complicated jobs. I'm sure he will be remembered fondly by anyone who knew him. I know I will always be thankful for the time I shared with him.

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**Mike Soresi** - November 12, 2017 at 08:17 PM

RS

“ I remember as a child camping and visiting with all the Gardner's. Mr. Gardner was always so much fun and a gentle giant. He will be missed yet his work here on earth will live on forever. Love your Gardner family. Peace in the days to come, for your Mom and Dad are finally reunited, what a joyful reunion for 2 amazing angels.

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**rick schietaert** - November 12, 2017 at 03:18 PM

TF

“ Our Dad's memorial Mass is tentatively set for Friday, December 1, 2017, St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church in Troy, MI @ noon, confirmation of this will follow.

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**The Gardner Family** - November 12, 2017 at 12:37 PM

GO

“ Dear Gardner family, wishing you peace and grace and God's blessings on Glen and your family.

*Glenn O'Connell and family*

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**Glenn O'Connell** - November 12, 2017 at 10:29 AM

LY

“ 15 files added to the tribute wall



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**Lynn** - November 11, 2017 at 09:48 PM

LY

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**Lynn** - November 11, 2017 at 09:12 PM