



Leroy (Roy) Elwell

November 6, 1926 - August 2, 2024

LeRoy (Roy) Elwell, age 97, of Holland, formerly of Grand Haven, passed away on Friday, August 2, 2024.

Roy was born on November 6, 1926, in Wyoming, MI to Roy and Anna Elwell.

After graduating from Godwin Heights High School, like so many of his peers, he enlisted in the military service, joining the US Navy in 1944. Upon completion of basic training, he earned his musician certification at the US Naval Music School. Roy served on the aircraft carrier USS Intrepid in the South Pacific. He was a member of the elite band aboard ship and was assigned to deck maintenance and damage control. He was honorably discharged in 1946.

Roy was a talented trumpet player - his love for music started in his early teens. Known as 'Our Harry James' in his high school band years, he played in the big band ensembles of the era, was a member of the US Navy Band and the Michigan State marching band during his college years. After retirement he enjoyed many opportunities to continue to play, including area church services and the Holland Swing Band. Roy joined other resident musicians to play at the annual Freedom Village New Year's Eve party for many years. His last gig was playing in the Scottville Clown Band, attending as many of the parades and concerts as he was able in his later years.

While he began his college education as a music major, Roy earned his BA and MA from Michigan State University in Education. He taught metal shop in the industrial arts department in Grand Haven Public Schools for 33 years. After retirement, Roy became an active member of the wood shop at Freedom Village. He also served on Marketing committees and the resident emergency response team.

Roy is survived by his wife of 74 years, Meriem; two daughters, Elizabeth Jeske, and Mary Lynne (Terence) Lapinski, 7 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

Roy's family is grateful for his kind and dedicated caregivers at Freedom Village, and the team from Corewell Hospice who together provided excellent care and ensured his peaceful farewell.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to the First Presbyterian Church in Holland in Roy's name.

Arrangements are by Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 East 16th St. Holland, MI, 49423. To leave condolences online, please visit www.langelandssternenbergh.com.

Cemetery Details

Oak Grove Cemetery

Grand Rapids, MI

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

JE

“ *Condolences and prayers for the Elwell family. First met Mr. Elwell while learning metal working skills in his high school shop classes. During one of those years in the mid 50's he hired me to help him do landscaping work at his home on Lakeshore Drive. After high school, I did 3 years in the Army and lost track of Mr. Elwell! You can imagine my surprise when this CLOWN taps me on the shoulder and asks if I had been one of his students! He had become a very happy member of the Scottville Clown Band! He and I would chat each year during the Clown Bands performance at the Eagles Beer Tent. I believe he enjoyed reminiscing about the old days. After my retirement, i assembled a very complete gentleman' s metal workshop. Each time I'm in in my work shop I am using skill's first taught to me by MR. ELWELL. Thank you ROY*

John Ennenga

John Ennenga - August 09, 2024 at 06:20 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - August 09, 2024 at 09:36 AM

AR

“ *Fair Winds and Following Seas Shipmate - RIP*



Aaron Reznick - August 09, 2024 at 09:14 AM

DN

“ *My sympathy to the Elwell family. I had Mr. Elwell for metal shop when I was in the 8th grade in 1955. I also remember when he played in the Scottville Clown Band at the Grand Haven Eagles. They were also friends of my parents Charles and Ruth Nash. Also Edward and Vera Bares.*

Dean A. Nash - August 08, 2024 at 09:15 AM