



Mr. Earl Sykes

January 18, 1929 - June 7, 2013

Mr. Earl Sykes passed away peacefully June 7, 2013 at Rose Arbor Hospice in Kalamazoo, MI. He was born on January 18, 1929 to the late Arlene Sykes in North Little Rock, AR. After his mother's untimely death, Earl was raised by his grandparents, Lee and Ella Sykes.

He served in the U.S. Army from 1951-1954 during the Korean War. He moved to Kalamazoo, MI after the war and then settled in Portage, MI with his wife. Earl worked in construction and at a paper mill before being hired by the UpJohn Company. He retired from Up John in 1990 after nearly 30 years of employment. His hobbies included hunting, fishing, camping, traveling and remodeling.

Mr. Sykes married the former Zelma D. Palmer on May 5, 1951. Their 3 children are Eric Sykes of Moreno Valley, CA; Kimberly (William) Hitchings of Kalamazoo, MI and Brian Sykes Sr. of Portage, MI. His children blessed him with 7 grandchildren: Emerald, Erika, Brian Jr., Trista, Felecia, Lauren and Jaydan; and one great-grandson, Judah.

He was known as a loving, funny and wonderful husband, father and grandfather.

Earl was preceded in death by his mother, grandparents and brother, Curtis

Sykes.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his loving wife of 62 years, Zelma Sykes; his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild; his sister, Catherine (LeRoy) Baker; two aunts (Earl was raised with), Dorothy Ruth Sykes and Elsie Jean Sykes; and sister-in-law, DeLois Sykes. Earl has a great many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends who will miss him dearly.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Ever-Rest Cemetery

3941 S. Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **14**. 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home, Inc.
521 Douglas Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 342-1000
info@harperfuneral.com
<https://www.harperfuneral.com>

Visitation

JUN **15**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

The Galilee Baptist Church
1216 North Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Service

JUN 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

The Galilee Baptist Church
1216 North Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Earl Sykes



Harper Funeral Home - June 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr. Earl Sykes

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ Mr. Earl Sykes

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ With Deep Sympathy to the Family. I am sorry for the loss of your dear loved one. May it comfort you to know that Jehovah God (Psalm 83:18) promises to "swallow up death forever and wipe the tears from all faces" (Isaiah 25:8). May your family draw strength from this promise as God continue to sustain you during this time.



Anne - June 14, 2013 at 06:44 AM