



Archibald "Archie" Jenkins Carmichael

May 19, 1925 - April 29, 2020

May 19, 1925 – April 29, 2020

We lost our dad today, just three weeks shy of his 95th birthday. By most people's standards, he had a pretty long and amazing life.

Dad, the only child of Scottish immigrants, excelled in life. He graduated from University of Michigan in 1948 and, that very night, he proposed to his high school sweetheart, our mother, Robbie English Carmichael. Three months later they began a marriage which has lasted for almost 72 years.

With Mom at his side, Dad went to work for Ford and later Chrysler, raised 5 kids, migrated from Detroit to Southfield to Bloomfield Hills and finally, retired to Traverse City in 1986 where they've lived an active and happy life for 34 years.

Along the way, we, their children, added 5 spouses, 11 grandkids, 8 grand-spouses, 1 fiancé and 8 great-grandkids (so far).

What isn't reflected in the numbers is the fun, the chaos and the love we have all shared. By all accounts, we've been a successful family with good fortune, and more importantly, with common values and an unbreakable bond.

Just the other night, in the middle of this global lockdown, we were all on a Zoom call together – all of us, from California, Arizona, Colorado, Texas, Kansas and all over Michigan, trying to share one small computer screen. Crazy? Yes. Unmanageable? Absolutely. But every single one of us was there if for no other reason than to say "Hi."

A few days later, we lost the anchor, the man who'd been at the center of everything: our father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Dad has always been a giant in our lives, smart, calm and always caring. He golfed, skied, joined Kiwanis, but most importantly he gave us his undivided attention and unconditional love. It didn't matter why, nor did it matter when, Dad was always there.

Will we miss him? You bet, but we're going to relish what he taught us, cherish our collective memories and love his memory forever.

Thanks Dad, for everything.

Comments



“ Wierzbicki Family lit a candle in memory of Archibald "Archie" Jenkins Carmichael



Wierzbicki Family - May 21, 2020 at 07:59 AM



“ Thank you, Archie & Robbie, for the wonderful children you nurtured and loved dearly. I met Mr. Carmichael when Susan, Scott and I were at Lahser together. I immediately thought he was a cool dad, friendly and smart. Such a long, rich life full of love, hard work, and joy. Cheers and peace to you, Mr. Carmichael, and to your large, extraordinary family.

Warmly,
Jeanne Depman

Jeanne Depman - May 16, 2020 at 02:38 PM



“ When I think of one word for my dad, it is "steady." Dad was always there, Not just physically, with a big smile and hug every time we visited, but relationally. He never failed to find a moment alone to ask me how I was doing and what was going on in my life at the time. He listened and cared. His love was unconditional and consistent. As we added family members; children, their spouses and then 5 grandchildren, dad welcomed and loved each one with the same steady presence. Favorite memories-- sharing the Tiger's World Series victory in 1968, going to the musicals at Southfield High and listening to all the music. The Christmas that we all decided we would hand make every gift (sorry Dad, I never finished the knitted socks! Bet you didn't mind!). I remember the Christmas Day that he carried into our home the beautiful doll house he and mom built for my girls. Fun times going out on the pontoon boat at the lake, going to see the Blue Angels fly over Traverse City, and most recently sitting out on their beautiful patio to watch the sunset. Dad left a heritage of quietly loving his family and encouraging each of us to be our best self. It's a legacy I hope will continue through me, my children, and grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by all of us!

Jill



Jill Goldsby - May 14, 2020 at 01:09 PM



“ What a quiet, gentle leader he was for the TC Kiwanis club. Always helpful, kind, obedient and thoughtful. Don't know if he was a boy scout, but he sure exemplified all of their positive attributes. Well done good and faithful servant!

James Palmer - May 14, 2020 at 10:25 AM



“ I'm so sad that due to Coronavirus I had to cancel what would have been a trip to see him for the last time in March. My father was a true mensch. He was an honest, hard-working, loving, committed man who always put family needs first. A solid, good human, who never spoke ill of anyone, was fair and kind. Trust me, some of the kids in this family (no names...) put him to the test several times. But, he always responded in a loving, albeit firm, manner. I miss you Dad. I'm grateful I had you for 55 years, but your absence will forever hurt. I'll miss your sense of humor, your smile, your brilliant mind. Thank you for everything you taught me - even the math that I resisted. Go Blue forever, mi padre!



Susan Feldman - May 13, 2020 at 08:30 PM