

## Delmar J. Gunden

1926 – 1999

Delmar Jay Gunden of Pigeon, beloved husband, father and friend, died Thursday, August 12 at age 73, after a long illness with Parkinsons Disease. He was born in Bay Port on February 7, 1926 to John and Rachel (Albrecht) Gunden, attended Snell School, and graduated at Bay Port High School in 1944. He was united in marriage to Magdalene Stutzman at the North Goshen Mennonite Church on November 4, 1950.

He was in sales during his productive working years, owning and operating a Purina store, as well as introducing the Purina Caged Layer Egg Program to the State of Michigan during the 1950's-1960's.

In the 1970's he became a licensed dealer of mutual funds and insurance for Multi Vest, Inc. During the 1980's he moved to North Carolina and was involved in supporting various Christian ministries, including a Christian rehabilitation organization in Richmond, Virginia called New Life for Youth, a program which frees youth from drug addiction, provides education, job placement, and most importantly, spiritual guidance. He retired in 1988 and moved to Port Charlotte, Florida, then returned to Michigan in 1991.

Mr. Gunden was a member of the Pigeon River Mennonite Church.

He is survived by his wife, Maggie; five children: Delmar Grant Gunden of Caseville, Dawn and Jack McCain of Bay Port, Kayeleen and Vince Laney of Pigeon, John David and Margaret Gunden of Caseville, and Tami Chere' and Brad Stamm of Ada; several foster children, including Kathy (Storms) Sova of Beaverton; 14 grandchildren: Bridget and Andrew Grant Gunden; John and Lisa, Shelly, Joleen, and Matthew McCain; Harrison, Emily, Graham, Gretta, and Maggie Gunden; Justin and Morgan Laney; and Sara Stamm; three brothers, Glenn (Pauline) Gunden, Olin (Joyce) Gunden, and John Dale (Ethel) Gunden; two sisters, Lala (John) King and Iva Swartzendruber; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a sister, Clara Stalter; brothers-in-law, Lawrence Swartzendruber and Mark Stalter; and a foster brother, Michael Sape.

Funeral Services will be conducted at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, August 16 at the Pigeon River Mennonite Church with Rev. Tom Beachy, pastor, and Rev. Victor Torres officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to R U Red E? Ministries or New Life for Youth.