



Russell M. Potts "TOGETHER AGAIN"

October 31, 1923 - September 5, 2011

Russell Max Potts, age 87, of Wooster, ascended to his heavenly home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Monday morning, September 5, 2011 where he was surrounded by his loving family from his earthly home.

A celebration of life service will be held 11:00 a.m. Friday at Custer-Glenn Funeral Home, 2284 Benden Dr., Wooster with Pastors Nathan Ward and Eric Fairhurst officiating. Interment will follow at Wooster Cemetery and where military rites will take place.

Visitation will be Thursday at the funeral home from 6 - 9p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to either: Hospice and Palliative Care of Greater Wayne County, 2525 Back Orrville Rd., Wooster, Ohio 44691 or The Salvation Army-Wooster Corps, 437 S. Market St., Wooster, Ohio 44691.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at: www.custerglenn.com.

He was born on October 31, 1923 in Cambridge, Ohio to Joseph D. and Cora B. (Parry) Potts.

Russell graduated from Cambridge High School in 1942 and then married the love of his life, Betty Jane McKirahan, on November 22, 1942 at Zion Lutheran Church in Cambridge. She went home to be with her Lord on May 27th, 2005.

After working a short time as a machinist with the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company Aircraft Division (Blimps) in Akron. He was then drafted into the U.S. Army where he served as a Military Policeman during WWII in Fresno, California at Camp Pinedale with the 462nd Army Air Force Unit. After an

Honorable Discharge in 1946, Russell attended Muskingum College, graduating in 1950 with a BA in education. After moving to Wooster in 1953 he attended Kent State University where he earned his Masters Degree. Russell touched many lives in many ways during his 33 year teaching career. It began at Dresden High School, Dresden, Ohio in 1950 (and yes, he taught some of the Longaberger children) and ended with retirement in 1983 after 30 wonderful years with the Wooster City School District as a 6th grade teacher at Bowman St. and Parkview Elementary Schools.

After retirement he and his wife enjoyed some traveling to Florida and just being together. Russell had many collections including several hundred ball caps, campaign buttons (from way back!), special golfballs, bells, VCR movies and several smaller collections. He was well known for his happy, personality and always having a smile on his face.

Russell had been a faithful, active member of the Wooster Church of The Nazarene over the years, serving on the board of directors, teaching adult Sunday School classes, leading the singing in the choir.

He is survived by children, Marilyn Butzer of Wooster and Ronald Potts of Tallahassee, Florida; five grandchildren, David, Matthew and Janelle all of Ohio; Robert and Marcy of Florida; 8 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter.

In addition to his parents and his wife Betty, he is preceded in death by 7 brothers and sisters, Everett Potts, Margaret Thompson, Beatrice Gates, Ross Potts, Florence Stage, Jim Potts, June Hart and several nieces and nephews. The family wishes to thank Hospice of Greater Wayne County for the wonderful care they gave Russell and the support they gave the family.

Previous Events

Service

SEP 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Custer-Glenn Funeral Home, Inc.
2284 Benden Dr.
Wooster, OH

Tribute Wall



“ Now it all makes sense. His loving patience, his caring guidance, his wonderful outlook. I should have known Mr Potts not only loved us 6th graders He also loved the Lord! And we all loved him. I came to his class after a traumatic year in 5th grade, and Mr. Potts saw the good in me, and prepared me for success through the rest of school.

I got the chance to thank him on several visits at his home (collection museum) there on Palmer St in my adult years. I'll sure look forward to the next time I see him. I expect him to have an impressive halo collection to show me.

Love and prayers to the family. Your dad and grandpa made a difference in our lives. I am sure he accomplished the job God sent him here for and that his Father has told him "Well done."##imported-begin##Jeff Detrow##imported-end##

September 16, 2011 at 09:43 PM



“ Russell and Better were the best friends and neighbors anyone could ask for. In 1960 was the first time I remember meeting russell teaching 6th grade what a wonderful teacher..Then in 1971 Donnie and I were greeted by Betty and Russell into the neighborhood..they always stopped and visited. in 1979 they invited us to bible school with the boys and we were forever friends. So many memories of two of the most wonderful people we will miss them dearly. love and hugs the smiths..donnie sue brad and david and families.##imported-begin##Donnie and Sue Smith##imported-end##

September 09, 2011 at 05:24 PM



“ Mr. Potts was my 6th grade teacher at Parkview also (1981-1982). He was a tremendous educator and someone a young boy could look up to and most of all respect. Many of the things I learned from him and the great staff at Parkview made my trek into adolescence much easier. One of the things that stuck with me the most was the talk he had with our class before heading into Junior High. “You are and will be known with who you hang out with.” At the time I wondered what he meant by that. By the time I hit high school it all made sense to me.

When I think of Mr. Potts I can do nothing but smile and think of all the great things he did for so many young people. It was privilege to know him and I am thankful for that. I hope everyone close to Mr. Potts can take comfort in his passing knowing the positive influence he had on so many.##imported-begin##Jamie Mullen##imported-end##

September 09, 2011 at 04:54 PM



“ To The Greastest Man I Ever Known

Pleasure to have met u and your family.
Have and will always keep your memories with me.##imported-begin##Beth Blair##imported-end##

September 08, 2011 at 01:32 PM



“ Dear Russell Potts' family,

We had the honor of knowing both Russell and Betty -- what wonderful, genuinely Christian people. It was a pleasure to be in their presence -- so positive and upbeat.

We are better for having known them.

Yes, they will be greatly missed by many.

However, I can just picture the joyful reunion they are having, before the Father's throne, right now.

For them, it was not a sad "good-bye," but "See you later."

For them, "later" is now.

Let us rejoice, with them, through our tears, and look forward to that "great homecoming" in God's perfect time.

In Christ,

Trish & Darrell Emerson

Wooster Church of the Nazarene##imported-begin##Patricia

Emerson##imported-end##

September 07, 2011 at 02:18 PM



“ To the Family of Russell Potts. Very Sorry to Hear of Your Loss, May You All be Comforted now knowing He is in Paradise. The Sad Passing of "Mr. Potts", brings back many ,many Fond Memories as He was My 6th Grade Teacher in Parkview Elementary School, One being My "Science Project--My Earthquake (Volcano)" giving it an A+ and 1st Place. Another being Most Well-Behaved and Helpful Student in 1979. As Only being known for "Your Heart of Gold" Mr. Potts and Helping Me through My "Cootie" Moments in 5th Grade (1978). You will be Sadly Missed and Graciously Remembered. May You now Rest in Loving Peace.##imported-begin##Christine (McManus) Saeger/ John Kaser##imported-end##

September 07, 2011 at 02:01 PM



“ To the family of Russell Potts,

I am so sorry to hear of the death of your father and grandfather. I was his student in the 6th grade at Parkview School in 1965-66, and I consider Mr. Potts to be one of the fine teachers that inspired me to go into teaching. He was always upbeat and happy in what he was doing--not easy when you teach 11 year olds! I remember his love of science and his incredible collection of Reader's Digest magazines that he used to teach reading to the students. He was a very warm person who I know you will all miss terribly. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely yours,

Suellen Anderson Kador##imported-begin##Suellen Anderson Kador##imported-end##

September 07, 2011 at 09:49 AM



“ *Mr. Potts was my sixth grade teacher at Parkview in 1964-1965. I loved the science "experiments" he did at the science table and enjoyed our reading group, where he challenged us to expand our vocabulary by reading extra articles from his HUGE collection of the Reader's Digest. I wish I had followed up on my thought to visit him this past June while I was home for my class of 1971 40th reunion.##imported-begin##Janet Oehlenschlager Mohr##imported-end##*

September 07, 2011 at 07:46 AM