



## LaVern "Bud" French

June 19, 1930 - February 11, 2013

Mission, Texas and Richland, Michigan – LaVern “Bud” French, 82, formerly of Sister Lakes, passed away Monday evening, February 11, in Mc Allen, Texas.

Funeral services celebrating his life will be held Monday, February 18, at 11:00 A.M. at the Davidson Chapel of Florin Funeral Service, 249 E. Center Street, in Coloma, with Pastor Whitney Brown officiating. Burial will follow at the Coloma Cemetery. Visitation will be held Sunday 2:00 until 5:00, and 6:00 until 8:00 at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to either the American Heart Association or to the Galesburg (MI) Congregational United Church of Christ. Messages of condolence may be sent to [www.florin.net](http://www.florin.net).

Bud was born June 19, 1930, near Richland, Michigan. He was one of five sons born to Bert and Marion French. Bud proudly served his country during the Korean Conflict. He later attended WMU to obtain his Aviation degree where met his wife, Ruth Ann Urban. They married on June 16, 1956 and together they had four daughters. Bud worked at the Whirlpool Corporation as an aircraft mechanic and pilot, and later for the Sundstrand Corporation in both Dowagiac and Rockford, Illinois. He retired in 1990 after setting up Flight Operations for Columbia Pictures in Burbank, California. Bud served as president of the Professional Aviation Maintenance Association (PAMA) and also served as membership chair while that organization was growing. After retirement, Bud and his wife traveled to the “many places he had seen from

the air” including an entire summer driving Canada and Alaska. Additionally, he enjoyed ice fishing, visiting historical places, and “talking with people wherever he went.” Most of all, Bud cherished time spent with his wife and family.

Bud is survived by his wife, Ruth Ann; daughters, Lorraine (Jim) Shields of Chicago, Nancy (Dan) Ely of Commerce Township, MI, Eileen (Mike) Shields of Dowagiac, and Karen (Arnie, Jr.) Garritano of Maineville, Ohio; 11 grandchildren; and 5 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Bud was preceded in death by his brothers, Richard, Maurice, Lawrence and Robert French.

# Cemetery Details

## Coloma Cemetery

5900 Coloma Road  
Coloma, MI 49038

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 17. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Davidson Chapel of Florin Funeral Service  
249 East Center Street  
Coloma, MI 49038  
(269) 468-3181  
staff@florin.net

## Visitation

FEB 17. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Davidson Chapel of Florin Funeral Service  
249 East Center Street  
Coloma, MI 49038  
(269) 468-3181  
staff@florin.net

## Service

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FEB 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Davidson Chapel of Florin Funeral Service  
249 East Center Street  
Coloma, MI 49038  
(269) 468-3181  
[staff@florin.net](mailto:staff@florin.net)

# Tribute Wall

AM

“ *Lavern was a good friend and taught me a lot when I started work for Sundstrand as an aircraft mechanic. He cared about what I was doing even after he retired and that shows a lot about a person. Many fond memories that will be with me forever... We will miss you .... Allen and Robin Miller*

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**Allen Miller** - April 16, 2014 at 07:28 PM

MS

“ *Bud will always hold a special place in my heart. He was a loving father and grandfather, and his presence was one that couldn't be missed. I'm very sorry for your loss, and I know Grandpa Bud will be missed dearly.*

*Love,*

*Mandy Schaus*

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**Mandy Schaus** - February 21, 2013 at 01:16 PM

ES

“ *Ruth Ann and family---- I was lucky to have known Bud for over thirty years. While I didn't see him that frequently, the times I spent talking with him were memorable in so many ways. He had so many interests and a natural curiosity about the world and happenings around us. In my time spent with him, he would always ask about things that were happening in my life and my thoughts on people and places. He always made you feel important. My sincere condolences go out to the family. He will be missed.*

*Ed Shields St Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands*

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**Ed Shields** - February 17, 2013 at 07:21 PM

DK

“ Ruth Ann please accept my sincere condolences on the passing of your husband. I know he will be greatly missed by your entire family. As a former classmate at Coloma High I just wanted you to know I cared.

*Don Kavanaugh*

*P.S. My middle name just happens to be Urban*

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**Donald U. Kavanaugh** - February 16, 2013 at 08:24 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of LaVern "Bud" French.



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February 16, 2013 at 09:11 AM



“ *Vivid Recollections* was purchased for the family of LaVern "Bud" French.



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February 16, 2013 at 09:05 AM

AN

“ *Adam, Cheryl, Erik & Alex Niepomnik* purchased the *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant* for the family of LaVern "Bud" French.



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**Adam, Cheryl, Erik & Alex Niepomnik** - February 15, 2013 at 09:55 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of LaVern "Bud" French.*



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February 15, 2013 at 06:24 PM