

## Warren Paul Freestone

April 15, 1921 - December 8, 2014

Warren Paul Freestone, of Bangor, age 93, was born April 15, 1921 to Wallace and Marene Freestone in their family home in Bangor, Michigan. He passed to Eternal Life with Jesus on December 8, 2014 in Faith Hospice, Byron Center, MI, with loving family by his side, following a brief illness. Warren grew up as the middle of three adventurous boys, and noted that he had four very special friends from youth until they passed away: Merit Overton Jr., Cecil Monk, Orville “Cocky” Willis and Sid Smith.

After graduating from Bangor High, where he enjoyed and excelled at basketball, football and baseball, he attended Western Michigan and ran cross country there. He married his high school sweetheart, Helen Overton, in 1944 and celebrated their 62nd anniversary before her passing in 2006. Warren and Helen lovingly raised their three children, Gary, Susie and Gordie on a small farm outside Bangor while he was employed by Fuller Mfg. (later Eaton Corp.), advancing from line work to foreman, then general foreman, retiring in 1978 to his lifetime passionate hobbies of fishing, hunting, and traveling to the 50 states, Canada and Mexico with Helen, as well as close friends and family. He was dedicated to the Bangor Christian Church (later Church of Christ), where he was an active member, serving in many ways. In later years he attended the First Congregational Church and Simpson Methodist Church, and enjoyed rich fellowship with friends there. Warren was also involved in the local Kiwanis Club, Bangor Fire Board, and Masons over

the years. Many in the community knew him as the “rose man” since he shared the abundance of his garden with rose bowl deliveries throughout the seasons, as recently as early November of this year.

Warren lived his 93 years as a “youngster” in many ways by staying connected with young people in his family, neighborhood, and Bangor High School sports. He had a deep admiration for the men who had been his coaches, and he and Helen supported the following generations by attending boys and girls sports of all kinds with devotion and enthusiasm. Warren continued late in life, even during the 2013-14 basketball season, with the help of a dear friend and fellow sports enthusiast, Otto Watkins.

He was preceded in death by his two brothers and their wives, Roger and Florence Freestone, Kenneth (Dutch) and Jane Freestone, his brother-in-law and friend, Merit Overton Jr. and nephews Paul and David, with whom he had a special bond. His sister-in-law, Marie Overton, survives him, along with several nieces and nephews and their children and grandchildren.

He will be greatly missed by Gary, Susie (Marlette) and Gordie, along with his grandsons, Steve and Tim Marlette and Brian Freestone, and great-grandchildren Meghan and Nicholas Marlette.

A memorial celebration of Warren’s life will be held at the Bangor Church of Christ on Saturday, December 20 at 11:00 a.m. followed by a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall, kindly served by the ladies of the church.

In lieu of flowers that Warren so loved in this life, his family would appreciate donations to the Bangor Historical Society of which he was a lifetime member, encourager and supporter, the churches Warren attended, or a hospice of choice. Arrangements by BANGOR CHAPEL D.L. Miller Funeral Home, [www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com](http://www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com).



# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

DEC **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bangor Church of Christ  
214 North Walnut Street  
Bangor, MI 49013

# Tribute Wall

BK

“ Warren gave me some words of wisdom when I was a young man. I remember and use his advice to this day

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**Brent Kreiger** - December 21, 2014 at 06:11 PM

PH

“ Our thoughts and prayers will be with your family. Warren was a kind man with such a cute sense of humor.. We will always remember his support and encouragement for our children in the sporting events at Bangor High School.. He and Helen were always there cheering them on. He will surely be missed in our community! May God bless you all and fill you with His peace in the days and weeks ahead..

*With our deepest sympathy, Ron & Pat Henry and family*

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**Pat Henry** - December 21, 2014 at 06:35 AM

KS

“ I only knew Mr. Freestone for a very short time. He was warm loving and giving with a youthful spirit which he was able to give to those he loved. He will be truly missed, but with hope his spirit will live on! Thank you for sharing your spirit with us!  
*Kim Schmitz*

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**Kim Schmitz** - December 20, 2014 at 09:16 AM

PO

“ Warren embodied all the attributes of the real man: he loved God, his country, family and friends, with a sincere humility that endeared him to all he met. My only regret regarding Warren is that I wasn't old enough to see him and Merit Overton, Jr., tearing it up on the basketball court. I'm sure God is happy to have Warren on His team now. Sincerest condolences to Gary, Sue, Gordy and grandchildren/great grandchildren.

*Cousin Philip Overton and wife, Kathleen*

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**Philip Overton** - December 18, 2014 at 12:12 PM

AT

“ I'm sorry to hear of Mr. Freestones passing. He was such a sweet and wonderful man. I can't remember a softball game in 4 years that he and Helen weren't at cheering us on, and always had a smile and a hug for all of us. He was full of love and support for so many people. I'm so blessed to have known him. Our prayers are with you.

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**Andrea Trantham-Muller** - December 17, 2014 at 06:17 PM

KH

“ We are so sorry to hear of the loss of your Dad, Gordie; our thoughts and prayers are with you and family at this difficult time.  
*Karl & Ruth Hewitt*

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**Karl & Ruth Hewitt** - December 17, 2014 at 05:10 AM

LT

“ We were so sorry to hear about about your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in this difficult time. Warren was one in a million and will be missed..... He was always ready with a smile and a hug and will be remembered.

*Larry and Jeanie Trantham*

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**Larry and Jeanie Trantham** - December 16, 2014 at 08:21 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Warren Paul Freestone.



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December 14, 2014 at 03:57 PM

DK

“ So sorry to hear of the Loss of your Father, My Prayers are with all of you at this sad time in your Lives. May God Bless all of you. Dan Kempski

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**Dan Kempski** - December 14, 2014 at 11:48 AM

JZ

“ Warren will truly be missed. What a wonderful man who was always willing to share his beautiful flowers that always came with a hug and cheer! We are personally looking forward to seeing him and you're Mom again someday! There are many prayers for the family for your huge loss! Because of Christ, Julie and Doug Zantello

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**Julie Zantello** - December 13, 2014 at 09:38 PM

BU

“ Gary, Sue and Gordie, Your dad was my junior high Sunday School teacher. He told me that when he was 16 he got a letter from his Sunday School teacher, my grandfather, telling him the importance of making a lifelong decision to follow Christ. Thanks, Mr. Freestone. I never forgot that. God Bless you all in this time of separation. What a joy to know of the promise and hope that God has given us.  
Bob Umbanhowar

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**Bob Umanhowar** - December 13, 2014 at 09:58 AM

BM

“ What a blessing to have known your father and mother. No one will ever know are the inspiration and encouragment they gave to our family through hard times and good ones. I especially will miss his phone calls randomly and always on holidays sharing his love. Always remembered my birthday! Calling and asking how to fix something. So many times thought of all of you often. I am sure he is rejoicing with mom and all those beautiful flowers!! David and Betty Markel

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**Betty Markel** - December 13, 2014 at 05:57 AM

RE

“ I will miss my roses and hugs from Warren at the therapy center! He is lovingly reunited with Helen now!  
Randi Eckstein

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**randi eckstein** - December 12, 2014 at 07:47 PM

RT

“ Sorry to all of you to hear of the death of your dad, Warren Freestone. He was truly a pillar of this community and loved by everyone who knew him! We will all miss him here, but our hope is in the resurrection when we will meet our brothers and sisters who have gone on before! Looking forward to that day!  
Love and prayers, Roger and Ruth (Balzer) Tuinstra

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**Ruth Tuinstra** - December 12, 2014 at 07:13 PM

CA

“ Mr Freestone was always Present at the Wrestling Matches when our son Cory was in High school :) always had a hug and a smile For me !! You will be miss Kind Sir <3 Rest in peace <3

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**Carmen** - December 12, 2014 at 06:59 PM

RR

“ He was such a fun living man. My mother used to get teased by him and vice versa!!! Such a gentleman and pillar of the community. They don't make them like that anymore. Prayers.

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**Renee Lange Richardson** - December 12, 2014 at 02:32 PM

MH

“ Gordie, my condolences on the passing of your father. Your parents were some of the warmest and nicest people in Bangor. They are together in heaven now and will be forever remembered fondly by those of us that had the pleasure of crossing their paths. God bless you and keep you and your family in this time of sorrow.

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**Michael Hanners** - December 12, 2014 at 01:31 PM

RD

“ Gary, Sue & Gordie I am so very sorry to hear of your Dad's passing, he has gone to be with his queen. He missed your Mom so much. I have nothing but fond memories of your parents and trust you will find God's warmth in your heart to comfort you in your loss. God speed you Warren, one of God's real angels.

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**Rick Dillman** - December 12, 2014 at 09:56 AM

CR

“ Gordie: Your dad was such a warm and friendly neighbor, always asking about my kids. I will miss him at the school sporting events and his waves as we drove by. He is being welcomed with open arms by your mom. God Bless. Love Chris Rigozzi-Solano

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**Chris Rigozzi-Solano** - December 12, 2014 at 09:15 AM

SH

*I met him only once, he was a dear sweet man! May he find the joy in heaven, he spread on earth!*

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**Shirley Privett Hayes** - December 12, 2014 at 11:12 AM

GS

*Gordie, Sorry to hear about your father,he has gone to heaven to be with your mother. God bless them and all of your family*

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**Gary Smith** - December 12, 2014 at 11:54 AM

RR

*Gordie, Even though we did not know your father, it is apparent from the tributes here that his character has been shared with his children. Sorry for your loss, you are in our thoughts.*


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**Rich and Judi Ransom** - December 12, 2014 at 04:51 PM

JB

“ Gary, Sue, and Gordie, - sending my sympathy and prayers for you upon the loss of your dad. I have so many wonderful memories of both he and your mom in my growing up years at the Bangor Church of Christ. They both gave such sweet encouragement to me. God blessed our lives richly with wonderful Christian parents! Live out the legacy. God bless you with His comfort and peace. - Judy (Umbanhowar) Beavers

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**Judy Beavers** - December 12, 2014 at 09:00 AM

 Leigh Ann Bury Brenne

“ He was such a friendly face to see. His support for Bangor athletics through all these years was amazing and I will miss giving him a hug at basketball games. I will also miss seeing him take such great care of his lawn. It always looked perfect!

*Leigh Ann (Bury) Brenne*

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**Leigh Ann Bury Brenne** - December 12, 2014 at 08:14 AM

KG

“ For me, he was a positive memory of Bangor. Now I understand his support for the cross country team, but all Bangor kids and the sports they played. Thoughts with his family.

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**Kirk Gent** - December 12, 2014 at 07:26 AM

KC

“ I'll forever have fond, loving memories of my cousins, Warren & Helen and I'm saddened to learn of Warren's passing. May he & Helen rest in eternal peace.

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**Karen Clinard** - December 12, 2014 at 07:11 AM