



George E. Coleman

Life Story

George Coleman will always be remembered as an easy-going gentleman with a soft heart for friends, family and animals. He enjoyed a good beer and had fun kicking back with friends and family. George's great sense of humor, strong work ethic and commitment to those he loved made him an exceptional husband, father and friend.

George was the youngest of three children born to William Patrick and Mona (Cahill) Coleman on October 15, 1928. George, along with his brother, William Jr. and sister, Mary, enjoyed big city life, growing up in Chicago, Ill. His father was a photographer/reporter for Police Magazine and he saw it all in the big Windy City. He even rode in the same elevator once with Al Capone. When George was five years old, his father had enough of the city life and moved the family to Paw Paw, Mi. to enjoy the simpler life in a smaller, more peaceful community. George's father worked in Paw Paw as a free lance photographer/ reporter and as an independent contractor to the State police and Medical Examiner. His mother stayed home to care for the children and the family quickly settled into country life in Paw Paw.

With a passion for electronics, George graduated from Paw Paw High School. He read everything he could get his hands on to learn more about the electrical world. From radios to televisions, George wanted to know the mechanical in's and out's of how things worked. He soon found a job with a company called A.F. Murch. The company was bought and sold numerous times throughout George's long career, changing to Smuckers, Minute Maid and finally Coca-Cola. During his time with the company, George had the privilege of holding down different positions. His last title, before retiring on June 25, 2000, was that of setup man.

In the late 1950's, George was enjoying a drink at the Sportsman Bar in Paw Paw when he met Doris Stutzman. He and Doris struck up a pleasant conversation which eventually led to George's lunch invitation. He asked Doris to the Greasy Spoon. Doris accepted the invitation and they both enjoyed a delicious bowl of chili. Doris liked hers spicy hot and piled on hot sauce and chili peppers to create a chili masterpiece. George followed suit with the hot stuff and never forgot that day, especially because of how the spices stung his throat and caused sweat to pour from his brow. That date was the first of many. After a few years of courting, George, Doris and her two children, Ed and Vera moved in together. They became a family and two years later, George and Doris decided to tie the knot. The couple was married on August 17, 1962 at the Justice of the Peace in Allegan, Mi. On their way, they stopped off at a bar. Their joyful demeanor led them to meet another nice couple enjoying a drink. Their new friends went along with them to the Justice of the Peace. They were there to stand up for them in their wedding.

After the wedding, George moved the family to an apartment on S. Kalamazoo St. They lived there for quite awhile before George bought a home on 309 Brown Street where the family resided for more than 25 years. He

raised Ed and Vera as his own children. George was a good father. His mild-mannered way of living allowed him to enjoy his children throughout the years. Eventually, the kids grew up and had families of their own. They provided George with nine wonderful grandchildren and fifteen precious great grandchildren. George was a good guy and he always tried to be there for his family and his friends to help them out in times of trouble.

He was Irish and proud of it. He was closely tied to his roots, enjoying the Irish music, beer and good times with friends. Although George was a quiet man, after a few drinks, he livened up. George did his best to enjoy life. He loved a thick juicy steak and to watch his favorite television show, Lost in Space. He was also a collector of baseball cards, stamps and coins. He knew one of the best places to find those and other treasures were out at the yard sales.

George had a good life, but there was something he always struggled with. He had poor vision. This kept him from joining the military and as time went on it made it more difficult for him to work on his electronics and read his technical magazines. As he got older, George's vision continued to decline. He stopped driving and began walking the five miles to work each day. Although he could no longer work on electronics and computers, he maintained his interest in them. George and Doris both resided at Metron of Bloomingdale. His wife of forty-two years passed away on April 17, 2005. George had been suffering from Parkinson's and Alzheimer's for a number of years and was well cared for at Metron of Bloomingdale until the end of his days.

George's love for his family, friends, and good dog Trixie will not be forgotten. The wonderful memories he leaves behind are gifts, and they will be a solid source of comfort for those he loved.

George E. Coleman of Paw Paw, age 77, died February 15, 2006 at Metron of Bloomingdale. Members of George's family include his three children; Edward (Mary) Cross of Edwardsburg, MI, Vera Good of Paw Paw, and Mary Margaret Cross of CA, nine grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Graveside services will be held (day and time to be determined) at St. Mary's Cemetery, Paw Paw. To read George's complete life story, archive a memory, order flowers, or make a contribution to the American Cancer Society please visit his personal web page at www.lifestorynet.com. Arrangements by Life Story Funeral Homes, Betzler & Thompson-Paw Paw, 60900 M-40 (South of I-94).