



# Leo Ortvals,

NOV 17, 1924 - JAN 13, 2010



Scan to Visit

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 4



## **Leo Ortbals,**

NOV 17, 1924 - JAN 13, 2010

**L**EO HENRY ORTBALS, JR., age 85 of Madison Heights died January 13, 2010. He was born Nov. 17, 1924 in Detroit, Michigan.

He retired from Distel Tool and Die, Warren in 1987. Enjoyed boating, and could fix almost anything. He was a WWII Army Air Force Veteran.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years Loretta, children: Janet Maynard, Barry (Barbara) Ortbals, June (Paul) Fry, Jackie Ortbals, grandchildren: Jason, Dustin (Rachel), Kevin (Brandi), Kellen, Drew, and great granddaughter Olivia. Brother of Larry (Karen) Ortel, Tom (Judy) Ortel, and Fred (Mary Jean) Ortbals.

Visitation Saturday 3pm to 8 pm and Sunday 4 pm to 8 pm with a Scripture Service at 7 pm. The funeral service will be held on Monday at 11:00 am at the Hopcroft Funeral Home, 31145 John R. Road, Madison Heights.



## Tribute Wall

**Leo Ortvals,**

NOV 17, 1924 - JAN 13, 2010

PB

**Patty & Jay (Messina )Bostwick** posted:

Our condolences to Loretta and family.

January 18 at 2:41 PM

SM

**Shannan Melkonian** posted:

Our deepest sympathies go out to Leo's family during this time of loss. We will miss talking to and seeing Leo in the neighborhood. A void will be felt as we come around the corner and don't hear WJR in the garage. We will never forget Leo scavenging an old bike for our son, Sam last summer. Although the bike was too big for him, we took the bell off it. Leo's thoughtfulness inspired Sam to ride the big-boy bike he was previously too scared to get on. Thanks, Leo. You will be missed.  
Shannan, Dave and Sam Melkonian

January 17 at 12:08 PM

DO

**Donna Ortvals** posted:

I told my kids many of those stories from way back when, but what Tyler remembers most is Big Louie giving him wheel barrow rides at the Tittibawassee not long before the place was sold.. what a precious memory that is for me too. Wow, all the Ortbal's history that the cottage held.. And Dylan would go over my mom and dad's house and always tell Grandpa, "let's go see Big Louie". I don't know what drew him to Uncle Leo, maybe it was all the cool stuff he kept in his garage, and the stories he could tell. He thinks all the stuff in his Grandpa's garage is cool too. I like that. Dylan was with me when I found out Uncle Leo had died and he said to me, "I'm sorry mom. I'm tired of people dying, and I liked Big Louie a lot". Yeah, me too.. But I envisioned Grandma and Grandpa Ortvals, and Aunt Helen and Aunt Ginny, all waiting there to meet him.. I am sure they have missed him. And that comforted me and even brought a smile. I know they are all proud of the man he was. He was a good man, he had a good life, and a wonderful family to share it with. And at the end of our days, this to me is what would matter most in life. Love you all, Donna, Tyler and Dylan

January 17 at 9:11 AM

CP

**Cheryl Piatak** August 13 at 6:42 AM

Donna, just came across this. So sorry to hear of your loss.Cheryl Piatak



## Tribute Wall

**Leo Ortvals,**

NOV 17, 1924 - JAN 13, 2010

DO

**Donna Ortvals** posted:

Uncle Leo was always larger than life to me.. The Patriarch of the Ortvals clan. He always had such a presence about him, yet you would find out that really he was this gentle giant. I always loved that devilish little smile you would be rewarded with if he found something you said funny.. I can't think about up north without including Uncle Leo in those thoughts. Who can? And of course he would always bring the Thompson. I thought that was the coolest boat around, and he was always generous in taking us water skiing and giving us rides in that boat, but you best know how to respect her... Uncle Leo always knew how to take charge and get things done, and fix things, even if it were in an unconventional way.. He did a lot of that, even up north. I call it the Ortbal's ingenuity. I like to think I got some of that, even for a girl. Even my kids knew the legends of Big Louie. :) "Uncle Leo must be on his way up".... Yep, we always knew when he was on his way up north to see us, because you could see the rain clouds rolling in... but it would be sunny the next day. :) I think my kids had a hard time believing he was the same man who tore the basketball net down that one fateful day when Uncle Tom disturbed his much needed sleep.. (continued)

January 17 at 9:09 AM

AF

**Ann Marie And Pat Franken** posted:

Uncle Leo will be missed. He was kind and patient and always had the correct tool and COULD FIND IT! When my Maverick arrived from St. Louis in bad repair, Uncle Freddie sent Pat to Big Louie's garage for U-joints. When Dan Hess stripped the wheel lug nut on his trailer, the guys tried to beat it loose with a hammer. (Note: Pat was not there.) Finally, Big Louie was called to the rescue. He looked at the mess and said, "Uncle Freddie , you should have called me sooner." Only Big Louie would have the patience to keep the wood Thompson in perfect condition. It was not a fishing boat! One time I called him for cell phone numbers and he simply said, "Ann Marie, I don't know nutin about nutin." We loved our times with him at the cottage and his stories about making sorghum and WWII. Our condolences, Ann Marie and Pat

January 17 at 7:40 AM

MH

**Martijn Van Haren** posted:

Dear Ortvals Family, I am so sorry for your loss, my prayers are with you all. I live in Europe, in the Netherlands and I want to say thank you... Mr. Ortvals fought for our freedom during WWII, to me he is a hero and I truly believe he should never be forgotten. I hope the family will get in touch with me on my email: martijnencindy@hotmail.com Best wishes, Martijn van Haren

January 17 at 4:24 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Leo Ortbal,**  
NOV 17, 1924 - JAN 13, 2010

JS

**Joyce Barry Schaefer** posted:

Loretta, Janet, Barry, June and Jackie and all the Ortbal family. I send my deepest condolences to you all for your loss of Leo, beloved husband and father. May you find comfort and support in the friends and family who love you and are praying for you at this difficult time. With love, Joyce Barry Schaefer

January 16 at 11:02 AM

JS

**Joe Salciccioli** posted:

My deepest sympathies go out to his entire family, especially his wife Loretta, he was our neighbor but also a good friend. He will be truley missed by all of us in the neighborhood.

January 16 at 8:11 AM

MF

**Mary (Fry) Fairchild** posted:

Our sympathies go out to you at this difficult time. May you find comfort in sweet and happy memories that will forever remain. Love, Mary and Jim

January 15 at 3:57 PM

GN

**Gloria Nastas** posted:

Dear Ortbal Family, I am very sorry for your loss. I remember what a nice man he was and his tinkering around in the garage. I hope you can find comfort that he is at peace and in a better place. Wrap yourself in your memories and the love he had for you. Sincerely, Gloria Nastas

January 15 at 8:16 AM

JC

**Jeannie (Fry) Craft** posted:

June, I am so very sorry for your loss. You and your family our in my thoughts and prayers. In all the world I could not have "picked" a better sister-in-law! Kellen and Drew, Love you two so very much. Always remember he will never be farther away then your very best memory...

January 15 at 5:07 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Leo Ortbal,**

NOV 17, 1924 - JAN 13, 2010

RO

**Robert & Jill Ortbal** posted:

Aunt Loretta, Janet, Barry, June & Jackie - We will all miss Big Louie very much!! I will especially remember the great times we had at the cottage and the yearly boat race between the Thompson and the Speedliner. Just to be completely honest, I think my Dad always cheated when he moved people around in the Speedliner to get it to go 2 MPH faster and pass Big Louie!! I learned a lot from Big Louie and respected him greatly. When I was a little kid, I always remember walking into his garage for the first time and seeing all of the glass mason jars of nuts and bolts screwed into the ceiling and thought that was just the "coolest" thing in the world!! When I was a little older, I remember how he tried for a week to teach me how to tie a bowline knot at the cottage and for some reason, I could never figure it out. When I finally got it, I don't know who was prouder, him or I!!! As perfect and meticulous as Big Louie was, he did have his share of humbling moments. I don't think anybody (especially Barry), will ever forget the time he ran the Thompson into the cottage shoreline when he mistakenly hit forward instead of reverse!! I know he had a tough go the last year, but I also know he is in a better place now. My condolences to everybody and God bless Big Louie!!!

January 14 at 4:04 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Leo by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit