



# Merle Clifford Bonter

APR 27, 1929 - NOV 16, 2022



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## **Merle Clifford Bonter**

APR 27, 1929 - NOV 16, 2022

**M**r. Merle Clifford Bonter, age 93, passed away peacefully at his home on Wednesday, November 16, 2022. He was born in Ravenna on April 27, 1929 to Clifford and Viola (Patterson) Bonter. Merle was a veteran of the United States Army and served in the Korean War. He was self employed as a builder for over 40 years prior to his retirement. Merle was a member of the American Legion Post #297 and the Lakeshore Woodcarvers Group. He was a hard working and talented craftsman. From building and operating a sawmill with his family, dedicating over 40 years in the construction business, to carving intricate sculptures, Merle did these things with honesty and integrity. He enjoyed camping, deer hunting, and spending time with his family. On December 16, 1950, Merle married the former Mary J. Gillespie in Conklin and she survives him along with their four children, Les (Cathy) Bonter, Linda (Larry) Coon, Brian (Cindy) Bonter, and Laura (Lee) Simpson; ten grandchildren, Keith (Gina) Crowley, Michelle (Rick) Coon, Nicky (Jason) Temple, Samantha (Andrew) Snoeyink, Trevor Robinson, Melissa Robinson, Andrew (Nicole) Bonter, Ashley Bonter, Austin (Samantha) Bonter, and Mike Pawson; eight great-grandchildren, Justin (Elizabeth) Crowley-Coburn, Jesse Coon, Eli Snoeyink, Isabelle Temple, Donnie Temple, Lucy Snoeyink, Kaiya Smith, and Brianna Pawson; sister, Shirley (Lee) Thurston and sister-in-law, Lorraine Bonter. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Elery and Elden Bonter; and sister-in-law, Jean Bonter. A MEMORIAL SERVICE for Merle will be held 10:00 AM Saturday, November 19, 2022 at The American Legion Post #297 (3590 Conklin St., Ravenna, MI 49451). VISITATION with his family will be one hour prior to his service. MEMORIALS in memory of Merle may be directed to The American Legion Post #297 or the Harbor Hospice Foundation. Arrangements by The Ravenna Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 3570 Thomas St., Ravenna, MI 49451. You may sign Merle's online guestbook at [www.sytsemafh.com](http://www.sytsemafh.com)



# Events


**Merle Clifford Bonter**

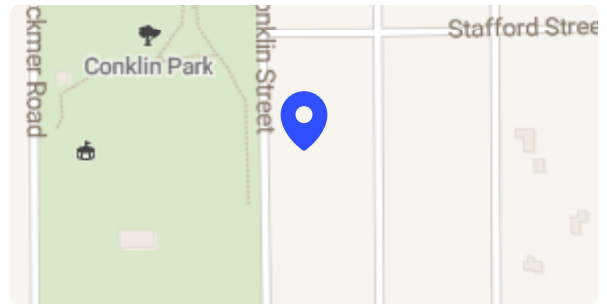
APR 27, 1929 - NOV 16, 2022

## Visitation

 **Saturday**, November 19, 2022

 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM ET


 **American Legion Sherman Moore Post 297**  
3590 Conklin St., Ravenna MI 49451

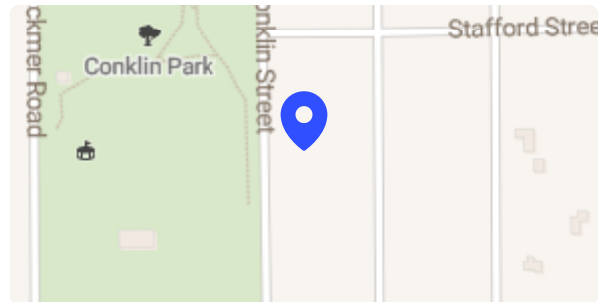


## Memorial Service

 **Saturday**, November 19, 2022

 10:00 AM ET

 **American Legion Sherman Moore Post 297**  
3590 Conklin St., Ravenna MI 49451





## Tribute Wall

**Merle Clifford Bonter**

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BC

**Bruce Cunningham** posted:

We are sorry for your loss. Our prayers and thoughts are with you. Bruce and Phyllis Cunningham

November 20 at 8:27 AM

LB

**Les Bonter** November 21 at 4:13 PM

Thank you!

BB

**Brian Bonter** November 20 at 4:54 PM

Thank You.

CY

**Connie Yates** posted:

I am so sorry for your loss Aunt Mary, Les, Linda, Brian and Laura. Uncle Merle was a great husband, dad and grandpa. He will be greatly missed. Loved seeing him smile. Many prayers for the family.  
Connie Yates

November 19 at 6:55 AM

LS

**Laura Simpson** November 30 at 5:38 AM

Thank you!

LB

**Les Bonter** November 21 at 4:12 PM

Thank you!

BB

**Brian Bonter** November 21 at 10:36 AM

Thank you!

KP

**Katy Pfaff** posted:

Merle was such a nice gentleman. Thoughts and prayers for Mary and family. 🙏

November 18 at 11:52 AM

LB

**Les Bonter** November 21 at 4:13 PM

Thank you!

BB

**Brian Bonter** November 21 at 10:37 AM

Thank You!



## Tribute Wall

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**Diane Chulski** posted:

Mary, Laura, and family. My deepest sympathies for the loss of your dad. Never knew anyone who loved Hamburg more than your dad! My thoughts and prayers are with you.

November 18 at 10:14 AM



**Laura Simpson** November 30 at 5:40 AM

Thank you! Yes he did love hamburg!



**Les Bonter** November 18 at 11:24 AM

Thank you!



**Barb & Oravel** posted:

Mary, we are so sorry for your loss. Praying for you and your family.

November 17 at 5:15 PM



**Les Bonter** November 18 at 11:26 AM

Thank you!



## Tribute Wall

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TL

**Terry L Luce** posted:

So sorry but please know i am praying for peace for Mary and family. Every time i carve a cane i will think of you my friend, thank you for sharing your talent with me.

November 17 at 3:04 PM

MB

**Mary Bonter** November 21 at 4:38 PM

Thank You

BB

**Brian Bonter** November 21 at 10:37 AM

Thank You!

JS

**John Szucs** November 19 at 12:18 AM

I had only met Mr. Bonter and Mrs. Bonter a few times, but i felt like I had know them for a lot longer, through my very good friends Les and Cathy, and their family, Andrew, Ashley, and Austin. I enjoyed visiting with them, when we did. Very nice people, that definately are comfortable to be around. This man was friendly to everyone and carried himself with class. It shows with all the family. He also was very talented when it came to his wood carving skills, and Mrs. B. who helped painting them. I will be thinking of Mr. B every time I see my special hand carved cane he made for me. His good memories will last a long time. Sending Mrs.B and all the family, all my best, you are all in my thoughts. "Happy Memories". Sincerely, John Szucs and family.

JW

**Jo Ann Wisner** November 18 at 3:00 PM

Love to Mary and your family. We had a beautiful kitchen thanks to Merle and Gerald G. Will be thinking of you Saturday we wouldn't be able to come out. Bruce and Jo Ann Wisner (Bruce is Mary's cousin).

BB

**Brian Bonter** November 18 at 4:11 AM

Thank you Terry.



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

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



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