



Frederic Leigh Wyckoff

April 2, 1927 - August 25, 2020

Frederic Leigh Wyckoff, April 2, 1927- August 25, 2020. Beloved husband to Violet (nee Droshine) for 69 years, loving father to Bruce (Gloria) Wyckoff, Gary (April) Wyckoff, Valerie (Jim) Nelson and Laura (Mark) Johnston, and proud grandfather to Garret, Matthew, Rachel and Claesen. Preceded in death by his parents Frederic Leigh and Olive Waite Wyckoff, twin sister Marion Lou Bennett, and brother Douglas Waite Wyckoff.

Fred was born in Detroit. He was president of his sophomore class at Mackenzie High School, and won a scholarship to Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills. In 1945 he joined the U.S. Merchant Marine Cadet Corps. He left in 1946 to attend Yale University on a scholarship, where he was part of the NROTC program. He was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy in September of 1950 and served for three years, first as a deck division officer aboard an amphibious transport, the USS Henrico, then as a personnel officer for the staff division on the same ship, where he participated in the withdrawal of Marines and Army personnel from Chosin Reservoir in North Korea.

Fred was accepted to both University of Michigan and Harvard law schools, and he proudly chose U of M, where he was offered a position on the staff of the Michigan Law Review, but declined in order to devote time to his growing family. After graduation he joined the legal staff at New York Central Railroad, where he focused on litigation. He later worked for many years as in-house counsel for Michigan Bell Telephone, before joining the firm of Evans, Pletkovic and Rhodes in 2003. His family was honored to join him in 2006 to celebrate 50 years as a member of the State Bar of Michigan.

A founding member of Northbrook Presbyterian Church in Beverly Hills, Michigan, Fred served in a variety of roles there, including as an elder and church treasurer. In his free time he loved to read, study history, avidly follow U of M football, attend meetings at VFW Post 6695, and most of all spend time with his family. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Wyckoff House and Association in Brooklyn, NY, <https://wyckoffmuseum.org/>, and Northbrook Presbyterian Church: <https://northbrookpc.org/>. A funeral service was held privately due to the COVID-19 virus.

Cemetery Details

Roseland Park Cemetery

29001 Woodward Avenue
Berkely, MI 48072

Tribute Wall

VN

“ 1 file added to the album Fredric Leigh Wyckoff



Valerie Nelson - September 04, 2020 at 04:21 PM

JW

“ This note is for Bruce, my name is Joan Schlanbusch Walsh - I think you and I were at Pierce School together sixty some years. So sorry to read about your Father's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with your Mother and siblings. I lost my Dad 11 years ago. May the peace your Dad now has enfold you all with comfort in the days ahead. Sincerely, Joan

Joan Schlanbusch Walsh - September 02, 2020 at 01:59 PM

CA

“ Dear Wyckoffs, Nelsons, and Johnstons,
My name is Chris Austin. Gary and I went through high school together and have remained close over the years. We spoke of your father and grandfather and husband on the phone just the other day, at length, and of his life. Thank you for posting this, and for the video as well, it was lovely and the sun was shining. My father was one year ahead of your Dad at Cranbrook, remembers him well, and I'll be sending these things along to him later today.
Your father and grandfather was..an exceptional man, from school scholarships to the Navy, from Yale to U-M, to his careers of counsel and his desire not to retire, and, to his service for Northbrook; and as his obituary and remembrance makes so clear. I last saw him several years ago, it was..August, summertime, he roamed around his house freely if a little more slowly; and had, still, what always seemed to me a spark, a mischievous glint, a.. something, in his his eye and his way.
I am not alone at marvelling at his and Violet's legacy, several of us have, over the years, thinking on Bruce and Valerie and Laura, and Gary of course, of their children (and grandchildren), the abundance of politeness, and kindness and accomplishments and capabilities in their various professions. Is there a greater display of a parent's worth. There is not.
So all hail Mr Wyckoff. I will continue to look for, and see his name etched in the stone column in the Cranbrook Alumni Court, as Gary and I have done before. My condolences, and sympathies, from my wife and I both. Here's to his life, and his legacy. Chris Austin

Christopher P Austin - September 02, 2020 at 11:34 AM



Thanks so much Chris.

Laura Johnston - September 04, 2020 at 08:21 PM

BW

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Bruce Wyckoff - September 01, 2020 at 09:17 PM



“ Gone From My Sight

*I am standing upon the seashore. A ship, at my side,
spreads her white sails to the moving breeze and starts
for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength.
I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck
of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.*

Then, someone at my side says, 'There, she is gone'

Gone where?

*Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast,
hull and spar as she was when she left my side.
And, she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port.*

*Her diminished size is in me - not in her.
And, just at the moment when someone says, 'There, she is gone,'
there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices
ready to take up the glad shout, 'Here she comes!'*

And that is dying...

*Death comes in its own time, in its own way.
Death is as unique as the individual experiencing it.*

Henry Van Dyke

Laura Johnston - September 01, 2020 at 05:42 PM



“ 1 file added to the album MrWyckoffService



O'Brien-Sullivan Funeral Home - August 31, 2020 at 01:42 PM

LJ

“ Fred was gracious and welcoming from our very first meeting after my son Mark fell in love with his wonderful daughter Laura. He was a fascinating conversationalist who could talk with you on a wide variety of subjects. He was a great listener. And he was a hardy Michigan man. I once stayed a couple of nights with him at Christmas time; early in the morning he persuaded me to go for a long outside walk. The temp was near zero and I was in great discomfort, but Fred seemed unfazed.

Fred was a gentleman and a truly gentle man. I will miss him a lot.

Lew Johnston

Lew Johnston - August 31, 2020 at 09:33 AM



Thanks so much Lew. He thought the world of you as well.

Laura Johnston - September 01, 2020 at 05:40 PM

MJ

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Mark Johnston - August 30, 2020 at 10:02 AM