



William G. Oldford

February 20, 1929 - June 19, 2025

William (Bill) Gordon Oldford Sr. died June 19, 2025, at 96 years old.

Bill was born in Detroit, Michigan on February 20, 1929, to Stephen E. and Clara B. (Hallett) Oldford. He lived in the Detroit area until 1942, after which he transferred to Lexington High School. He graduated with honors in 1946. He was a member of The Trinity Episcopal Church.

Bill married Marylou Shipley in 1950, and they had two daughters, Barbara and Betty. In 1963, he married Phyllis Baska, and they had two children, Kathleen and William Jr.

Bill took considerable pride in his Newfoundland ancestry, often stating, "Everyone in Newfoundland were hard workers and builders, and my father and mother passed that down to me." This philosophy was clearly reflected in his life and accomplishments.

During his youth, Bill engaged in various activities such as hunting, fishing, skiing, attending auctions, and working on projects in his barn. He was also a committed community leader and supporter throughout his life. In 1952, he became a master mason and a lifetime member of Lexington Lodge 61. By 1958, together with his brother Eugene, they acquired Huron Tool (Huron, Inc) from their father, successfully growing it into one of the largest employers in the area.

Bill served on the Crowell-Lexington School Board, the Lexington Township Zoning Board, the Rotary International and multiple committees at Trinity Episcopal Church. He was an advocate for Project Blessing, opened the

Windjammer in 1971, and built Oldford's Marina in 1984. His involvement extended to the Boy Scouts of America, where he held various positions at local, state, and national levels. Remarkably, well into his eighties, he continued to serve on the Lexington Village Board.

Bill loved his family unconditionally. He found his greatest joy spending time with his children and grandchildren, always cherishing the moments they shared together. His love and guidance were felt by all, and his unwavering support was constant in their lives.

He is survived by his daughter Kathleen Oldford-Johansen (Gwen Varney), son William Oldford Jr. (AnnMarie), and son-in-law William Edwards. His grandchildren are MaryLynn Edwards, Elizabeth Vernon (Erik), Hans Johansen (Jessica Roth), Merrick Johansen (Taylor), Kierstin Johansen (William Beiersdorf), William Oldford III, and Victoria Oldford. He also leaves behind his great-grandchildren Henry and Theo Vernon, his sisters-in-law Edwina McKee and Betty Cain, many cherished nieces and nephews, and close friends Tom Constantineau and Jean Wilson.

He was predeceased by his parents, his wives Marylou and Phyllis Oldford, his daughters Barbara and BettyLou, his son-in-law Dana Johansen, his brother Eugene (Sandy) Oldford, his in-laws Fred (Christine) Baska, Charles (Rosemary) Dazer.

His family thanks the staff at Mercy Village, Lakeshore Woods and nurse Teri of Harmony Cares Hospice for their excellent care and compassion. They extend special gratitude to Emily Macey for her exceptional care and dedication to our father in his later years. Additionally, they thank Steve Baska, Dennis/Sandy Dazer, Sue Zappa and Laurie Oldford for their unwavering support.

A memorial service will take place at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Lexington, Michigan on August 29th. Visitation starts at 9am, the memorial service at 10am, followed by a graveside service.

In Lieu of Flowers, Memorials may be made to the Saint Clair County Foundation, for the Steven E. and Clara B. Oldford Scholarship Foundation

Fund. 810-984-4761.

www.stclairfoundation.org

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 29. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Trinity Episcopal Church
5646 Main St.
Lexington, MI 48450

Service

AUG 29. 10:00 AM (ET)

Trinity Episcopal Church
5646 Main St.
Lexington, MI 48450

Tribute Wall



“ Pomeroy Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of William G. Oldford



Pomeroy Funeral Home - August 25, 2025 at 10:31 AM

JS

“ Jennifer S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William G. Oldford.

Jennifer S. - August 28, 2025 at 04:06 PM

FE

“ From Bill Edwards purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of William G. Oldford.



From Bill Edwards - August 27, 2025 at 07:41 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of William G. Oldford.



August 25, 2025 at 10:16 PM

MO

“ As a younger cousin of Bill, his father being a brother of my father Stewart, I remember several family trips to Lexington back in the 1950s. Since he and Gene were a bit older than me it was my brothers Stew and Howard who knew him better but I had some nice telephone talks with him later on during their ALS illnesses. He always seemed full of life and very friendly to me at the cousin's breakfast. Rest in peace Bill we will miss you for sure. Marty Oldford

Martin S Oldford - August 22, 2025 at 02:41 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William G. Oldford.



August 22, 2025 at 12:07 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William G. Oldford.

August 22, 2025 at 12:07 PM



“ I am sad to see the passing of Bill. It's been many years now, but I spent a lot of time with Bill and my uncle John around Bills home in Lexington. From plumbing to yard maintenance to even constructing a brick retaining wall in his backyard. He was always incredibly kind to me as a young man and helped to create the work ethic that I have today. Rest in peace Mr. Oldford. Jim Jurzysta

William Jurzysta - June 20, 2025 at 05:10 PM

BC

R I P enjoyed our times together Bill Campbell

Bill Campbell - June 21, 2025 at 07:12 AM

BC

Bill and I were called after our grandfather William/ Bill Hallett from Flat Island , Newfoundland.

Bill Campbell - June 21, 2025 at 07:16 AM

WH

I am Bill's older cousin, Bill Hiscock. Bill Oldford's father, Steve, was my godfather and his mother Claire sent me homemade cherry pies overseas during WWII. As very young boys we became good friends and that remained so through our entire lives. He visited me at my home in California and I visited him at his home in Lexington, Michigan and in Florida. He was very kind to my elderly parents, Heber and Elsie after his own parents died young. He always spoke of him with affection. He will be missed by all, but I think he recognized that we all have a time to go and I think he knew that his time was near. Love to all his family. Bill Hiscock.

William C. Hiscock - June 21, 2025 at 05:59 PM