



Eldon M. Strickland Jr.

July 3, 1937 - January 23, 2020

HARVARD - Eldon M. Strickland, Jr., 82, of Harvard, died Thursday morning, January 23, 2020, in his daughter's home in Parma, Michigan.

He was born in West Roxbury, on July 3, 1937, a son of the late Eldon M. and Madeline (Krueger) Strickland and has resided in Harvard over sixty years. He attended Bromfield High School at Harvard and later graduated from Leominster High School, where he met his wife, Patricia.

Eldon served as an auxiliary policeman for the Town of Harvard Police Department and was their first full time police officer. He was a member of the Ayer, Harvard, Shirley & Devens Rotary Club, and a Past President (1978-79) as well as having perfect attendance for over 30 years. Eldon was a member of the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce and a past President of its predecessor in 1980. He received the Albin Jodka award in 1997.

An active Mason Eldon was initiated into Caleb Butler Lodge on January 13, 1959. He was passed on February 9, 1959, raised to Master Mason Degree on March 24, 1959, acted as the Master of Caleb Butler Lodge from 1964 to 1965, served as Lodge Treasurer from 1993 to 2012, and was Assistant Treasurer from 2012 to 2016.

In addition to Caleb Butler Lodge, Eldon was affiliated with St. Paul Lodge in

Gardner, MA, from 1976 until his passing, and he was affiliated with Tahatawan Lodge in Littleton, MA, from 1983 to 1992. He was also a member of the Shriners. He received the Joseph Warren Distinguished Service Medal in 1999 in recognition of his many years of service to freemasonry. Eldon also received a Veterans Medal in 2009 in recognition of his 50th year as a Mason and a Certificate in 2015 in recognition of his 50 years as a Past Master of the lodge.

For nearly forty years, Eldon owned and operated Ayer Moving and Storage Company in Ayer, retiring in 2011.

Eldon leaves his wife of 60 years, Patricia (Stockwell) Strickland of Harvard and his five children and their spouses: Karen Strickland Sampson and her husband David, of Dunstable, MA; Cheryl Houle and her husband Brian, of Hubbardston, MA; Drs. Eldon Strickland, III and his husband, Libor of Watertown, MA; Holly Rossner and her husband Albert III, of Parma, MI; and Philip Strickland and his wife Amy, of Lunenburg, MA. He also leaves his 11 grandchildren: David Sampson, Jr., Ashley Sampson, Stephanie Tremblay, Michael Houle, Stephen Houle, Albert Rossner, IV., Heather Curtis, Hannah Rossner, Hope Rossner, Shaun Hart, and Grace Strickland as well as 11 great-grandchildren along with many nieces and nephews.

Eldon is predeceased by his brother Ronald Strickland of Harvard, who died in 1996 and leaves his surviving sisters: Maria, Gloria, Doris, and Carol.

Calling hours will be held on Monday, February 3, 2020, from 4 to 7 PM in the Anderson Funeral Home, 25 Fitchburg Rd., (Rte. 2A), Ayer, MA.

His funeral service will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at 11 AM in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 7 Faulkner Street, Ayer.

Burial will follow in the Bellevue Cemetery in Harvard.

For further information or to leave an online condolence, please visit their website at www.andersonfuneral.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Ayer Rotary Club, PO Box 239, Ayer, MA 01432, Caleb Butler Lodge AF & AM, 11 Sculley Road, Ayer, MA 01432, or the Shriners Hospitals for Children (<https://lovetotherescue.org/>)

Cemetery Details

Bellevue Cemetery

Still River Road
Harvard, MA 01451

Previous Events

Calling Hours

FEB 3. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Home - Ayer
25 Fitchburg Road ~ Route 2A
Ayer, MA 01432
(978) 772-2355

Funeral Service

FEB 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Andrews Church
7 Faulkner Street
Ayer, MA

Tribute Wall

PA

“ Sincere condolences to the entire Strickland family and especially to Eldon's beautiful loving wife Pat.

PatriciaLentz&PeterRobarge - February 04, 2020 at 11:21 AM

BM

“ Carol Ann and I extend our deepest condolences to the Strickland Family.
We are unable to attend the wake and Service but our thoughts and prayers are with the family.
Bill And Carol Ann Marshall

Bill Marshall - February 03, 2020 at 01:55 PM



“ Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Eldon M. Strickland Jr..



February 03, 2020 at 10:02 AM

WB

“ With Love, Greg, Denise, Zach & Cody Bessette purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Eldon M. Strickland Jr..



With Love, Greg, Denise, Zach & Cody Bessette - February 02, 2020 at 03:55 PM

 Paul
Poirier

“ I was deeeply saddened at the news of the passing of Eldon. He was a special man and I am honored and blessed to have known him. My condolences and sympathies to his family and friends.

Paul Poirier

Paul Poirier - February 02, 2020 at 09:23 AM

DC

“ I never new Eldon but got to know Pat thru playing cards. What a wonderful lady. Remember precious memories of the love and life you both had together.

Deborah Collins - January 31, 2020 at 06:46 AM

SA

“ Sara Axon lit a candle in memory of Eldon M. Strickland Jr.



Sara Axon - January 30, 2020 at 03:01 PM

FR

“ So sorry to hear about Eldon. Our thoughts are with all the family at this sad time. Fraser Ross, Inverness, Scotland

Fraser Ross - January 29, 2020 at 12:01 PM

AS

“ All our love, Emily & Stephen purchased the Red & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Eldon M. Strickland Jr..



All our love, Emily & Stephen - January 28, 2020 at 10:25 PM



“ My heartfelt condolences to Karen and the rest of the Strickland family. I had the pleasure of knowing Eldon through Rotary and enjoyed his larger than life personality and laid back style. Wherever you are Eldon, keep on truckin'.
Peter Lowitt

Peter Lowitt - January 28, 2020 at 02:32 PM

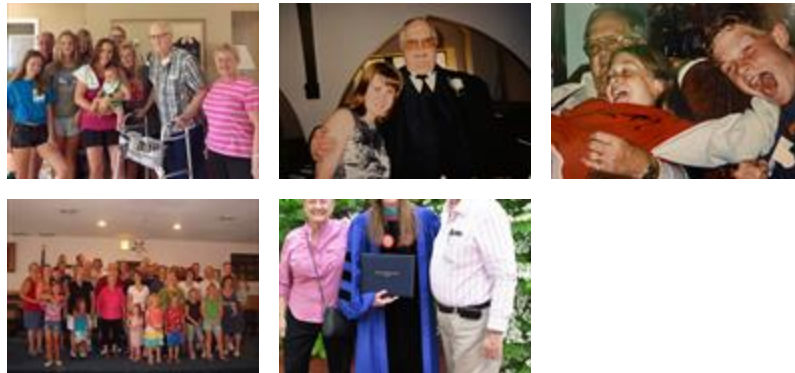
KA

Thank you, Peter!!

karens - January 29, 2020 at 03:42 PM

ES

“ 13 files added to the album Memories Album



Eldon Strickland - January 27, 2020 at 02:53 PM

JT

“ Pat and Karen, I cannot join you today or tomorrow, but want you to know that I felt fortunate to see all of you at the Rotary dinner a few months ago. Eldon was a great example of the Rotarians I always looked up to...Please accept my sincere sympathy during these dark hours

John Tata.

John Tata - January 27, 2020 at 02:47 PM

KA

Thanks John! Just letting you know that the services are next week not this week. We appreciate the sentiment. He was a great Rotarian!!!

karens - January 28, 2020 at 11:40 AM

ES

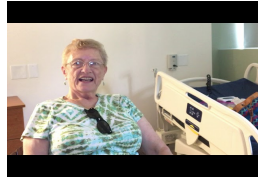
“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Eldon Strickland - January 27, 2020 at 12:37 PM

ES

“ 1 file added to the album *Video Memories*



Eldon Strickland - January 26, 2020 at 01:16 AM

ES

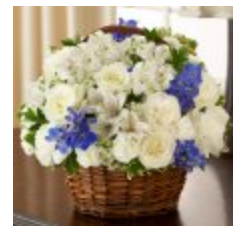
“ 38 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Eldon Strickland - January 26, 2020 at 12:52 AM



“ *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White* was purchased for the family of **Eldon M. Strickland Jr.**



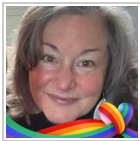
January 25, 2020 at 08:09 PM

AR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



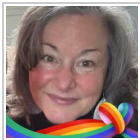
Albert Rossner - January 25, 2020 at 01:49 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Karen Drummey - January 25, 2020 at 01:46 PM



“ I'm saddened by Eldon's passing. I had the pleasure of meeting Eldon and Pat, and got to hear about how they met, went steady, and got married.

My condolences to the entire family. Sending you thoughts of peace during this time.

Karen Drummey - January 25, 2020 at 01:38 PM

MR

“ Eldon Sr always had a warm smile. I enjoyed spending time with the family there in Harvard, MA. My heart empathizes with the Strickland family for their loss. He will always be with you in your heart and beloved memories you shared. Sending my love, Marcine Rodrigues

Marcine Rodrigues - January 25, 2020 at 01:14 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White*
was purchased for the family of Eldon M.
Strickland Jr..



January 24, 2020 at 09:59 PM