



LTC (RET) Donald "Digger" Odell

July 25, 1934 - October 22, 2020

Odell, LTC (RET) Donald 'Digger'

October 22, 2020. Age 86. Beloved husband of Susan. Loving father of Barbara Odell Kalthoff (Chris), Paul Odell, David Odell, Hunter Odell, and the late Carol Odell. Proud grandfather of Ryan (Sarah), Jackie (Aaron), Josh, Anthony, Nikki, and Alyssa. Great-grandfather of Joey, Landon, Austin, Audrey, Alex, Andy, Savannah, and Abigail. Dear brother of the late Chuck Odell. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Visitation to take place at the Selfridge Military Air Museum (27333 'C' Street, Harrison Twp, MI 48045) Wednesday from 11:00am to 7:00pm. (Visitors will be guided upon entering the base). Military Honors and burial is open to the public and will take place Thursday 2:30pm at Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 Belford Rd. Holly, MI. 48442. In lieu of flowers, donations preferred to Team Honor or to Wertz Warriors. Share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guest Book" @ WujekCalcaterra.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **28**. 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Selfridge Military Air Museum
27333 C St,
Harrison Township, 488045

Military Honors

OCT **29**. 2:30 PM (ET)

Great Lakes National Cemetery
4200 Belford Road
Holly, MI 48442

Tribute Wall

JW

“ I wore the POW bracelet for Donald D Odell, and watched him Walk off the plane,i felt so much love for him. I have thought of him many times in my life, and am thankful for his service in our behalf. I was a teenager when I put that bracelet on. I'm now in my 60's and still honor him.

Jolyn Webster - September 11, 2023 at 09:27 AM



“ As a young person , I wore hi POW bracelet for many years. I can remember sitting in front of the television on the day they came home and waiting for his name to be called. I took off the bracelet when he stepped out but I still have it.

Paula Paden - August 15, 2021 at 08:37 AM

ML

“ I also wore the POW bracelet for Donald “Digger” ODell for many years and was so happy when he was released. I also had the honor of meeting him at my workplace over 25 years ago and I was able to talk to him and thank him for his service.

Coincidentally, my maiden name was ODell and I was honored to receive this POW bracelet and I always kept him in my prayers. (My father worked for the Sterling Hts fire department at the time and they also called him “Digger”. Sending prayers for “Digger” and his family...with deepest sympathy.

Michele Latona - November 04, 2020 at 05:28 PM

KP

“ I just found out on TV. I have been thinking about Susie and Digger for many years. Digger was an amazing man who my father Fred Mikton were good friends. May he rest in eternal peace. My sympathy to his family💜🙏🏻 Kim Mikton Poches

Kim Mikton Poches - October 29, 2020 at 07:03 PM

DD

“ Dawn Dowless lit a candle in memory of LTC (RET) Donald "Digger" Odell



Dawn Dowless - October 29, 2020 at 03:12 PM

B"

“ Digger was one of my favorite guys on our annual Costa Rica fishing trip. 22 years of trips with him and he was always one of the best and most competitive fisherman every time he got on a boat. My condolences to his family - he was a "one of a kind guy" and he will obviously be missed by all who knew him. See ya later Digger.



Bill Storch "Itchy" - October 28, 2020 at 07:03 PM

YG

“ Yvonne Gamble lit a candle in memory of LTC (RET) Donald "Digger" Odell



Yvonne Gamble - October 28, 2020 at 06:34 AM



“ Digger came to my Vietnam class many times to talk about his experiences. The best part was that I got take out to lunch a real hero after his colorful lectures. He enriched the lives of thousands of WSU students.
Mel Small

Melvin Small - October 27, 2020 at 06:21 PM

NB

“ He loved to tell stories and joked a lot. Will never forget the time my husband and i took our one grandson(2yrs old) with us up to Susie's and Digger's and we played cards. We all will miss him very much one great guy. Nila Buell

Nila Buell - October 26, 2020 at 10:07 PM

RA

“ I saw this obituary when looking for another at the funeral home but wanted the family to know that I wore a POW bracelet with his name on it for many years. I always wondered what happened to him. So nice to read that he went on to have a wonderful life. Rest In Peace. You served your country well. Roberta Ancona

Roberta Ancona - October 25, 2020 at 06:13 AM

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Don "Digger" Odell was a friend of the UAW REGION ONE Veteran's Council and the UAW Veteran's Conferences for many years up at the UAW Educational Center in Northern Michigan. He was a great speaker, a great man and a great Veteran to America. Job well done. Thank you brother.

"Charlie" Rouse, USN 61-66 - October 25, 2020 at 10:00 AM

RN

I was sad to hear of your passing. I know what those F-105 aircraft were like, very cramped inside the cockpit, having served at Thakli RTAFB during the war. I met you at the PBS special in Novi several years ago. You were very gracious and polite. God bless you for your service to our country. I hope to see you in a few years up at that last "formation" in the sky.

Ray Nadolski - USAF 1966-70

Ray Nadolski - October 25, 2020 at 10:54 AM

AF

I wore Donald's POW bracelet for years and often wondered who he was. Just today I was cleaning out some dresser drawers and found the bracelet. I Googled his name and have tears in my eyes to know that he just recently passed away. My late husband was career Air Force and we were stationed at K.I Sawyer AFB where I got the bracelet. I almost feel like I knew him and know you, his family, and I could share great memories of our years as an Air Force family. Hugs to all of you. Annette Fordham

Annette Fordham - October 31, 2020 at 07:05 PM

JG

“ *Our family lost our hero today. Grandpa you were a warrior. You fought so hard for your country and yourself. You survived being a POW for 5.5 years and you fought so hard with this last battle.*

You are the strongest person I know. I know the Lord welcomed you home with his arms wide open. A true hero's welcome!

The childhood memories that I have will be cherished for always. I will miss his infectious smile and laugh. The constant critiquing in how to play Euchre, years of Wertz Warrior Banquets, jumping off the dock into the river and our family parties. I will miss seeing your favorite drink in your hand (screwdriver), your fisherman shirts and even your Velcro shoes. Lol. I loved that you wore your dress blues to my wedding. I always wanted you to wear them and you surprised me on my wedding day. I am forever grateful that all of my babies got to meet you. The boys are still young but know they will see you in heaven. I will miss his love, kisses and hugs. I will just miss everything. I love you so much and my heart is broken.

Jackie Prince, Granddaughtee - October 23, 2020 at 07:26 PM