



## Howard J. Mitchell

January 10, 1945 - November 26, 2021

Howard J. Mitchell, age 76, of Holly, died Fri. Nov. 26, 2021. He was born in Flint on Jan. 10, 1945 to Albert and Evelyn (Bradley) Mitchell. He was a lifelong resident of Holly from a pioneering family that settled in Holly in 1837. He was a Vietnam Veteran, serving in the US Army. He worked at General Motors Metal Fab (now called GM Flint Assembly) plant on VanSlyke. He was a former member of Farm Bureau, Holly American Legion, Holly Kiwanis, and Holly JC's. Surviving are 4 siblings, Marilyn (Ralph) Meredith of Port Huron, MI, David Mitchell of Byron, MI, Arlene Mitchell of Seattle, WA, and Glen (Candace) Mitchell of Holly; nieces and nephews Brian Meredith, Devin (Tammy) Meredith, Erlinda Meredith, Renee (Shane) Hernandez, John Spencer, and Joeseeph (Ahnjayla) Spencer; and many friends. A visitation will be held from 1-4 Pm Sun. Dec. 19, 2021 at the Dryer Funeral Home, Holly. Burial will be in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. Memorial donations may be made to Michigan Foundation for Agriculture, Attn. Kate Thiel, P.O. Box 3096, Lansing, Mi 48909-8460 [www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com](http://www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **19**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Dryer Funeral Home  
101 First St.  
Holly, MI 48442  
<http://dryerfuneralhomeholly.com>

## Military Honors

DEC **20**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Great Lakes National Cemetery  
4200 Belford Rd  
Holly, MI 48442-9444  
(248) 328-0386

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dryer Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Howard J. Mitchell*

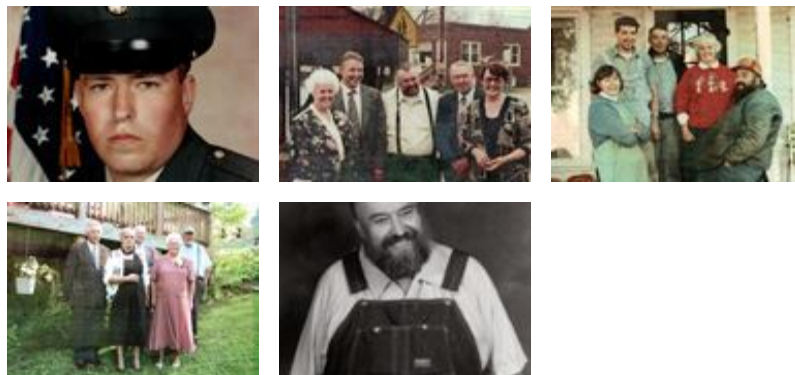


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Dryer Funeral Home, Inc. - December 14, 2021 at 01:57 PM



“ *28 files added to the album Life Tributes*



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Dryer Funeral Home, Inc. - December 14, 2021 at 01:49 PM

VK

“ Thanks to you I met Alicia. She is a true Angel. She helped you and I enjoyed assisting her. You were lucky to have assist you. I know how valuable she is and I think you did too. You had the best take care of you and you always did. Bless you and het and who cared for you. Now you in the care of God. Since you are a veteran you may have some service men and service women attend your funeral. You deserve it. I salute you. You're A good friend. Vernon Carl Kielpinski

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**Vernon Kielpinski** - November 29, 2021 at 10:59 PM

JD

“ I was saddened that Howard had passed. To his family and friends, my thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. As I learned of this on Facebook, I went and dusted off the 1963 Tell-Tale Yearbook to relive my memories of Howard. Two came to mind, and I would like to share the smile they brought to me as I recalled them.

As you look under his name in the 1963 Tell-Tale Yearbook, you see that Howard’s nickname was “Huey,” well yes and no. I was a co-editor of that yearbook (kind of like being a 3rd Cousin of a rich person... so what.). I recall that Sally O. was given the task of assigning those ‘forever-in-time’ nicknames. Sally had asked a few of his teammates on the Broncos football team what they called Howard. Indeed a logical choice, but there is a certain camaraderie amongst players that do not extend to others. Howard had both that respect and involvement with the team to earn and enjoy the athletic name they gave him. Often I would hear his teammates lovingly refer to Howard as “B\_\_ y Huey,” where the B\_\_ y adjective refers to a young infant. And that was the nickname that was under his photo in the First Draft of the 1963 Tell-Tale Yearbook. Once I told Sally the background, I recall her opening the ‘white-out’ and covering the adjective (the backspace key did not exist at the time) ... leaving “Huey.”

The second great memory was our communal lunch table during our Senior year. The same typical group of about ten would eat at the same table each day. (some of those I recall are: Larry B., Dick C., Lance H., John H., John K., Jim L., Howard M., Ken U., Doug W., and more).

Somehow, this group of misfits came up with a game where we considered the top of our lunch table as a hockey rink and a penny as the puck. The concept was by pushing, sliding, and even flicking the penny, to have it go over the end of the table, pass the one goalie at each end. (Pong was not even a concept). We would crowd around the table, choose sides, and drop the penny in the center to begin the game. Many six-year-olds can identify with the complex strategy that this game presents... simply smack the opposing team’s hand that has the penny, so they cannot ‘shoot’ the

*penny. All of us had heard of the word testosterone but thought it was a college entrance exam. The play was always fast and even created a few injuries... a couple of dislocated thumbs. We 'loved' it, every day!*

*Now that you understand the game, I recall a tied game only because of the final results reaction.*

*I was the goalie that day.*

*It was then that the 5-minute bell rang for us to return to class.*

*One last shot could win 'Championship of the Day'.*

*The penny was dropped.*

*Unexpectedly Howard's hand landed on the penny.*

*No one smacked Howard's hand.*

*From the center of the table, Howard stood up, with that light grin on his face,*

*Positioned the penny under his Thumb and moved as if in slow motion, forward.*

*Not only did he gently move me away from the end of the table, but Howard also moved me in the chair I was sitting.*

*As the penny pushed past the end of the table and dropped to the floor, winning the 'Championship of the Day, everyone jumped up and cheered.*

*I am still smiling as I share this with you.*

*For a short time, we were all together; it has created a lifetime of memories.*

*Howard will be missed but remembered.*

*God Bless.*

*Jim Dubbert*

*Class of 1963*

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**Jim Dubbert** - November 29, 2021 at 04:06 PM

RG

“ So hard to hear this. Worked with Howard at Chevrolet for many years, he was always one of my favorite people. Later built a house near him on Mitchell Rd. Howard was a big part of my son growing up, Howard showed him what it was to farm. Hadn't seen or talked to Howard since we sold out of Michigan & moved to Florida. He was a very kind person we will never forget him.

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**Robert Goodell** - November 29, 2021 at 10:45 AM

BJ

“ Howard had a big influence in my life as well as my family from a young age. I worked for Howard around the family farm doing anything from cleaning chicken coops to fence rows. The best was when he'd say go get the 4020 or the truck, and being 11 -12 years old driving anything was fun! Howard was full of life and always liked to joke around. Howard always had a story to tell and anyone who knew him well also knew his adage “and doin it”, it was a signature staple of his character! Howard will truly be missed by myself and many more! May you Rest In Peace Howard!

*Bill Butts jr.*

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**Bill Butts jr** - November 29, 2021 at 04:37 AM

JL

“ I can't tell you how sad I am to hear this. I'm so happy that I, and friends, Bob & Sherry Wunsche took the time to stop and see him while I was in Michigan this summer. He seemed in ok health except for hearing and his memory. It's difficult to pick out specific memories to share; there are so many. I knew Howard through the Holly Jaycees. I'll remember the bib overalls, the stories from the "old" days. His hassling us... just to help us be better. I gave him a copy of an article from the Holly Herald about him being the Holly Football Team's greatest fan.

*I wanted so bad to send him pictures from the "old" days to help jar his memory. I guess he now has all those memories back. Thank you Howard for being a friend.*

*John Ley, or as he helped differentiating me from my father, John eMMMM... Ley!*

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**John Ley** - November 28, 2021 at 10:24 PM

VK

“ Don't be surprised if some members of the service show up for your funeral Howard. There are some that attend the funerals of veterans like you are. You were a handful at times Howard. I assisted two angels who helped you too. You will be missed. It won't be the sane without you. There is no pop or refrigerators in Heaven. You called me David sometimes. No problem. May you find peace with the Lord.

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**Vernon Kielpinski** - November 28, 2021 at 09:56 PM

JB

“Glen and family sorry to hear of Howard’s passing . Always enjoyed his humor and constant banter which started when we rode the school bus together! Rest In Peace my friend!

*John and CJ Brummeler*

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**john Brummeler** - November 28, 2021 at 08:52 PM

JB

“Howard was a family friend since before I was born, he was well, Howard with his mountain dew, palm all cigarettes villagers family restaurant. He taught me alot as I would help him carry in wood feed the horses and occasionally clean out the front of his truck. Mostly so I had somewhere to sit. He will always have a place in my heart and he will be missed.

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**Jeff Butts** - November 28, 2021 at 03:37 PM

JL

“James Lowe lit a candle in memory of Howard J. Mitchell



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**James Lowe** - November 28, 2021 at 11:14 AM

JB

“ I have so many memories of Howard, he was a big part of the Butts family. The most memorable memories were in the wintertime driving his old John Deere B as well as bringing his beloved team of draft horses back to the woods to cut wood for him and my dad. The old John Deere had a buzz saw attached to it to cut the logs to size and Howard would let us drive the horses which were used to drag the trees out to the clearing. It was cold and hard work but I learned so many things during those times and will always be remembered but always cherished. I will miss his banter and his cheerful smile when I came to visit him most of all.

*Jason Butts*

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**Jason Butts** - November 28, 2021 at 08:44 AM

BM

“ This is a sad day for the class of '63 as another one of our classmates has passed on....Know you and Larry will be buddies once again when you meet.. You were always good to Jodie and Todd when Larry would visit, with tractor rides and getting to be on the "farm", Rest in the arms of your loved ones.

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**butchie mackey** - November 28, 2021 at 08:04 AM



“ Connie Austin-Davis lit a candle in memory of Howard J. Mitchell



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**Connie Austin-Davis** - November 28, 2021 at 08:01 AM

VK

“ He will be missed. I am glad we got a long in the end. The last two times he went to the hospital he acknowledged me. Thank you Howard for being a friend. I also salute you for being a veteran. You might be able to read this but others will. Thank you kindly Howard. Vernon Kielpinski

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**Vernon Kielpinski** - November 27, 2021 at 11:39 PM

JA

He was one of a kind, I liked the way he spit his tobacco juice in the top pocket of his bib overalls he was a good friend to Zeke and Pete Jensen so I liked him he was a nice man.

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**jon allen** - November 28, 2021 at 04:06 PM