



## C. Richard Bird

January 17, 1929 - October 7, 2018

Born: January 17, 1929 in Redkey, Indiana to Theodore (Ted) Roosevelt and Wilma Irene Bird.

Richard went home to be with our Lord and Savior of natural causes at the age of 89, at home surrounded by his loving family.

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He was a strong Christian man who had a very strong relationship with Jesus Christ.

He had one brother, Carl Erwin Bird, who was born in 1922. Richard, as he preferred to be called in his later years, contracted Polio at the young age of 22 months. He spent several months in hospitals and had numerous operations at the University of Michigan. He never let his polio hold him back from doing what he liked to do best. He enjoyed electronics and taking apart the family radio and putting it back together at a very young age, much to his parent's amazement. He married Carol Katherine Barnes from Ypsilanti, Michigan, July 29, 1950. They had three children; Tina, Pam, and Norman Bird.

Richard built their home in Ypsilanti, Michigan and lived there 55 years, raising their family and making many wonderful memories there. Richard and Carol were married sixty wonderful, fun, loving years together. He owned and ran a small business called Mark 16:15. He designed parts for the automotive companies and for Extang Corp. He engineered, manufactured and assembled a very large CNC wood milling machine a 4'x 8' machine to help with his future wood making projects. During his career as an Electrical Engineer at Bendix Aerospace he received his first patent. Richard then worked at KMS of Ann Arbor until he retired at 65 years of age.

After his retirement he truly could not just sit still and let time just pass him by. He so enjoyed wood working and electrical projects. Richard designed and built his own kiln for

drying red oak, white oak, and walnut. He turned the wood planks into many beautiful pieces of furniture, which included kitchen tables, one queen size bed, one king size bed, many solid oak doors with Bible scriptures engraved on them (two currently are hanging on the front of Calvary Bible Church on Carpenter Rd), a beautiful bedroom floor standing mirror framed with walnut, and several wooden engraved signs. In 2017, at the age of 89, he was awarded his second patent for a Digital-Digital-Analog Clock correction system. Until two weeks before his death he was still working on an electrical pump he had designed. Richard lived in Saline, Michigan at the time of his passing. He moved from Ypsilanti, Michigan to Saline, Michigan in 2007 where he lived with his daughter, Tina and her husband, Bill.

He was preceded in death by both of his parents, Ted and Wilma Bird; brother, Carl; and his beloved wife, Carol. He is survived by his children, Tina (Bill) Dean of Saline, Pam (Tony) Guy of Whitmore Lake, and Norman Bird of Warren; several grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

We, his family, wish to thank all of the loving staff at Angela Hospice for their care and devotion for our father during this time and keeping dad comfortable in his final days. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice Home Care (14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, Michigan 48154-5010) or <https://www.angelahospice.org/donations/>.

# Cemetery

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**Arborcrest Memorial Park**  
2521 Glazier Way  
Ann Arbor, MI, 48105

# Events

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**OCT 10 Visitation 02:00PM - 04:00PM**  
Carpenter Road Chapel  
2400 Carpenter Road, Ann Arbor, MI, US, 48108

**OCT 10 Visitation 06:00PM - 08:00PM**  
Carpenter Road Chapel  
2400 Carpenter Road, Ann Arbor, MI, US, 48108

**OCT 11 Visitation 10:00AM - 11:00AM**  
Carpenter Road Chapel  
2400 Carpenter Road, Ann Arbor, MI, US, 48108

**OCT 11 Funeral Service 11:00AM**  
Carpenter Road Chapel  
2400 Carpenter Road, Ann Arbor, MI, US, 48108

# Comments

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of C. Richard Bird.



October 10, 2018 at 12:09 PM

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“ Richard first off was a great friend. Even though I am younger he seemed to have a younger outlook. My wife Pat and I loved being with Richard and Carol both socially and in worship.

Richard was full of practical good sense which was instrumental in kick starting Extang (now Truck Hero) Corporation when it was a basement business. I added a photo of the water tower at the plant.

Richard shared his home built CNC with our son Ed to construct forms for an extremely fast catamaran which set speed records in the US and New Zealand. Photo of boat for which Richard built the construction forms.

**Donald Wheatley** - October 10, 2018 at 07:33 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Donald Wheatley** - October 10, 2018 at 07:20 AM



“ Richard provided practical insight which helped kick start this company when it was in a basement.

**Donald** - October 10, 2018 at 07:34 AM



“ Thank you for sharing your story mom and dad enjoyed spending time with you and the Wheatley family so much. You were such good friends for so many years. with fond memories.

**Pam Guy** - October 11, 2018 at 03:52 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Donald Wheatley - October 10, 2018 at 07:18 AM

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“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of C. Richard Bird.



October 10, 2018 at 03:09 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of C. Richard Bird.



October 09, 2018 at 10:22 PM

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“ Always loved visiting with Mr. Bird. Share a laugh or discuss the Word. Remember being in Sunday School classes with both Mr and Mrs Bird at the Assemblies of God Church in Saline. They both truly loved the Lord. He will be deeply missed. However, he is dancing with Jesus hallelujah!!!

KarenDenny PatkeHammond - October 08, 2018 at 02:24 PM