

# Walter Meyers had strong family ties

By Chris Rizk  
staff writer

Walter Clarence Meyers was a dedicated family man who had eight children and who was wrapped firmly in tradition. That's why, when the time arrived for the annual pilgrimage to Canada for a relaxing fishing trip, Meyers, 55, didn't hesitate.

It was his love of fishing that brought him to northern Ontario and to a road over which he had driven for more than 19 years. It was there

he lost his life. The Farmington Hills resident of seven years was killed in a two-car collision Saturday.

The driver of the other vehicle is Roy Edward Wangler, 23, of West Branch. He was injured after driving his pickup truck over the center line on two-lane Highway 17, 40 miles south of Wawa, an Ontario Provincial Police spokesman said. Wangler was admitted to Plummer Memorial Hospital, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. A passenger in the pickup was treated and released.

Police have not released any information regarding why Wangler's vehicle crossed into Meyer's path.

Meyers would have observed the

17th birthday of his son, Christopher, the day he died. Another son, Brian, 26, was with his father on the fishing trip, said daughter Laura, 35. Brian and his uncle were traveling alone in a separate vehicle when the collision occurred.

IN ADDITION to fishing, Meyers loved to sing and was a member of the Livonia Civic Chorus. He was scheduled to perform at his daughter Sharon's wedding June 6.

It was something he'd always said he'd wanted to do — sing at one of his children's weddings, Laura said. "His death has certainly put a damper on the wedding but every-

body here firmly believes that nobody loved a good celebration better than my father. So we'll go on with it."

A Chrysler Corp. employee for more than 30 years, Meyer was a supervisor in the engineering department.

He once told his wife that his annual fishing trips would be "the last vacation he would let go of," Laura said. No matter what, she said, he would still maintain his yearly fishing trips.

The family may yet carry on his tradition. His sons, all of whom have at least one son, have discussed which son would accompany his father to represent the next generation in the annual Meyer fishing excursion.

Laura said she believes the family will honor her father by continuing the father-son ritual.



Walter Meyers and his wife Betty Jane at son Michael's college graduation about seven years ago.

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In celebration of Older Americans Month and Michigan's sesquicentennial, anyone aged 55 or older may participate in either the 5k (3 miles) or 10k (6 miles) walk. Participants will begin at the Farmington City

Park, Shilawassee and Power, and follow designated trails highlighting local historical areas.

Community Emergency Medical Service will be monitoring the event to administer first aid, if necessary.

A \$2 registration fee covers refreshments and incentive prizes.

MEYERS IS survived by his eight children — sons, Kevin, Christopher, Brian, Matt and Michael; daughters, Sharon, Kathy and Laura; and his wife, Betty Jane.

The funeral is scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday at Mann-Perguson Funeral Home, Livonia. Burial will be in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

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