

## Labor Day Cars for Cancer 2022

by Calvin and Kate Holtrop

Muskegon's 18th annual Cars for Cancer brought the fight against cancer to the Lakes Mall parking lot this Labor Day weekend. The two-day cruise and car show was started in 2005 by one of the Knights of Columbus as a fundraiser for local cancer patients.

Held at St. Thomas Church for its first three years, Muskegon's Cars for Cancer was then moved to Hackley at the Lakes. After a short shutdown in 2020, Cars for Cancer returned and has been held the last two years in the old Sears building's parking lot at the Lakes Mall.

All funds raised by Cars for Cancer went to the Johnson Family Cancer Center in Muskegon, "as a give-back-to-the-community thing," said Bill Hill, one of the event's organizers. By the close of its sixteenth year, this car show had raised about \$315,000 toward meeting cancer patients' needs.

This year, Cars for Cancer kicked off with live music and a party in the parking lot, on Sunday, September 4. That evening, close to four hundred cars took a cruise to Spring Lake and back.



**Army veteran, Mr. Andrew East, holds his trophy plaque from a past year at Cars for Cancer**

"It took a little over an hour for the whole lineup to get out of the mall," said Hill.

Then on Labor Day came the car competition. Each person with a vehicle registered in the car show was able to vote for vehicles in thirty-seven different classes, and a trophy was awarded to each of the top three picks in each class. Also, the Different Strokes Car Club of Muskegon awarded the event's top ten vehicles with special trophies.

"Anybody with a \$10 entry fee can bring any



## Pastor Ronald Lynn DePung

Sad to say our father has passed onto Glory this past Wednesday while at home...those of us who believe in Christ as our Lord & Savior are so grateful he is in Heaven with his bride! The last several



weeks he prayed the Lord would take him home as his health declined rapidly. Eternally grateful for him as our father-childhood heromenter & Spiritual guide...

Ronald Lynn DePung was born on June 15, 1937 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was 85 years old when he passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by family, on July 6, 2022.

Ron is preceded in death by his beloved wife,



**Coordinator Bill Hill organizing a tool box raffle**

type of car, motorcycle, bicycle, whatever," said Hill. "And we'll put it in the show."

On Labor Day, Hill said that six or seven hundred vehicles had been registered by early afternoon. People came from all over Michigan, and some even from out of state, to participate in the car show.

Over the years, many participants have had stories to tell—some about their cancer battles, others about their cars.



**Folds of Honor's raffle car**

Aaron Coon has been courageously fighting a brain tumor with help from friends, family, and the DeVos Children's Hospital. He came to the show on Labor Day, entering his 1966 Dodge Dart GT to win the Young Guns award for the second year in a row.

U.S. Army veteran Andrew East entered his replica 1963 Ford Falcon. Overhauled and painted to resemble the army-green cars Andrew drove along the Iron Curtain when serving at the Army hospital in Munich, Germany, during the Cold



**This car's owner's wife died - she had picked tires and wheels and paint color is her Native tribe's color**



**Replica 1963 Ford Falcon belonging to Army veteran Mr. Andrew East symbolizes Army service during the Vietnam War**

War, the Falcon took home a Cars for Cancer award in a previous year.

Folds of Honor, a charity that provides scholarships to the spouses and children of fallen or disabled military members, also attended this year's Cars for Cancer, raffling off a 1965 Mustang Fastback.

Other parts of the Labor Day show included a beverage tent, a live auction, two raffles, valve cover races, a pin-up girl contest, and a Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast, as well as various food vendors. Each of these events at the Cars for Cancer show added to its fun and gave more opportunities to support cancer patients in Muskegon.

No matter how people took part in Cars for Cancer, this fundraiser has made a big impact in Muskegon for the good of cancer patients.



**Knights of Columbus provided a pancake breakfast**



Sharon, of 49 years, his mother and father, his brother Arnold DePung, his sister Norma Chertos, his companion Carol VanOpynen, and his son-in-law Jer Smart, all who joyously welcomed him into heaven.

Ron is survived by his children, Ronald Depung Jr (Anna Weiss) of Wayland, Suzanne Smart of Nunica, David Depung (Shari Cardosa) of Spring Lake, Thomas DePung (Francena) of Muskegon, Scott DePung (Monica) of Tennessee, and Kristi Simmons (Mike) of Georgia, 19 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.



Ron's passion was sharing the love of Christ with the others. He lived his life for the Lord, evangelizing everywhere he went. He led countless people

to the foot of the cross and stood by their side as they came into a relationship with their newfound Savior.

Ron pastored at three different churches throughout his 50+ year ministry. Grandville Wesleyan church in Grandville, MI, Nortonville Gospel Chapel in Spring Lake, MI and First Congregational Church in Fruitport, MI. Ron was also on staff at Bible Related Ministries based out of Chicago, IL. Ron was also one of the Spiritual Directors with West MI DeColores. Ron also had a 50+ year career in the insurance industry.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to Bible Related Ministries at 272 Hinsdale, Chicago, IL 60522 or by going to their website, BibleRelatedMinistries.org (after entering payment information, please click on the "Add Special Instructions to BRM" option and type 'In memory of Ron Depung').

There was a private funeral and burial service held on July 9, 2022. A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, July 30, 2022 at Grace Assembly of God, Fruitport, MI.