

Community pays tribute to 'lovable' Trost

Memorial service for popular host evokes memories

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HOLT - Family and friends of Fred Trost gathered Saturday to pay tribute to the man who put his thumbprint on Michigan's outdoor life.

Mourners paid their respects during a memorial service in the auditorium of Holt High School to the longtime host of the popular hunting and fishing show, "Michigan Outdoors."

In memory

Contributions can be made in Fred Trost's memory to:

- Project FISH, which is an educational program for youth and families sponsored locally by schools and fishing conservation organizations.
- Make checks payable to: Michigan State University "A-1746 - In Memory of Fred Trost" should be printed in the memo line of the check.
- Mail contribution to: MSU Development.

"He lived life to the fullest," said Trost's daughter, Tara Wilson of Okemos. "We should all be happy for him."

Trost, 61, of Lansing died of a rare lung condition July 18 after spending several weeks in Sparrow Hospital and the University of Michigan Medical Center.

Wilson said her father always supported her, and she reflected on the times he let her cut his hair when she was 12 years old.

"He always made me feel like he had been waiting to see me since the last time I saw him," said Wilson, 34.

Trost's show, "Michigan Outdoors," was focused on hunting and fishing, and broadcast on public television across the state.

Patrick Witherell, Trost's friend of 17 years who appeared on numerous television shows with him, said they were constantly doing pranks on one another.

He told the crowd about the time he and Trost were looking in the river for hellgrammites, which are insects used as bait for fish and have sharp pincers.

Witherell, of Grand Rapids, said he intentionally told Trost to pick it up the wrong way and the hellgrammite latched on to his hand.

"He gave it a good fling," said Witherell, 55, with a laugh just before the public ceremony. "And I spent the rest of the day hooking his bait for him."

But Trost got him back, Witherell said.

A few days after Witherell hit a 10-point buck with his car, Trost jokingly presented him with an award for "biggest road kill" during a ceremony.

"He liked to have his fun," Witherell said shaking his head. "I am going to miss him."

Sherri Ritter, 46, said she would remember Trost for his generosity.

"He was such a lovable and down-to-earth man," said Sherri Ritter of Holt, who knew Trost for 15 years. "He would give the shirt off his back for people."

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