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PATRICK LYNCH PADDY LYNCH GENE ANDRUS

EDWARD J. LYNCH 1924-1992

E. SAFELY HOME

On December 31, 2009, Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors of Clawson, Michigan continued their "Safely Home" program by offering a free ride home to anyone in the community celebrating New Year's Eve with alcohol who couldn't find a taxi or arrange for a designated driver.

From 11pm to 2am, funeral directors/drivers Pat Lynch, Paddy Lynch, Gene Andrus, Frank Leto, and Russell Gonzales picked up revelers from various bars and house parties in and around Clawson and got them home safely at no charge. Office workers, Jamie Piskura and Crystal Stoup remained at the funeral home, answering phone calls and dispatching the drivers.

As soon as we began making this service known, all of metro Detroit's major newspapers and radio and television news stations began calling to conduct interviews and learn more.

When asked what originally inspired the idea, Pat Lynch was quoted by the Oakland Press as saying, "We've been in this business for over fifty years and seen the absolute devastation that drinking and driving can wreak on a family. We'd rather get people safely home to their place instead of ours."

Naturally, the media helped spread the word and at the end of the night, approximately fifty people got home safely in one of Lynch & Sons' vehicles.

The public response was extremely moving. Many members of the local clergy as well as families we had served in the past called to thank us. Even strangers called to ask us if they could volunteer as drivers.

One person posted on a newspaper's website: "What a great idea. Gentlemen, thanks so much for taking the time away from your families to try to save lives. Gene Andrus is a neighbor of ours and he often does civic volunteer duty. Our niece was killed by a drunk driver several years ago; our family has never been the same. Thank you again."

While the media attention was exciting and reflected positively on our firm and funeral service in general, the most gratifying moment came when a bereaved father whom we had served after his daughter was killed by a drunk driver called to personally thank us for sparing others his devastation.

A Family Tradition Of Dignified Service