



## C. Larson

February 24, 2006

C. Robert Larson

KINGSFORD - On his 87th birthday, Feb. 24, 2006, C. Robert "Bob" Larson died of a brief illness.

He was born in Minneapolis in 1919, to John and Nellie (Nelson) Larson. Bob graduated from Central High School in Minneapolis and then attended business school where he learned bookkeeping, shorthand and typing. He put these skills to good use in his service to his country with the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II.

On May 3, 1944, he was married to Ruth L. Nelson in the living room of his bride's house with his bride's father officiating. After Bob's tour of duty, he relocated to Chicago to work for the Otis Elevator Co.

In the early 1960s, the same time he took up flying, Bob and a partner left Otis and bought the Goetz Elevator Co. which thrived under his management. At its peak, Goetz serviced all the elevators and escalators owned by the city of Chicago. After raising a family in the Chicago area, in 1975 he and Ruth moved to Montana where Bob continued in the elevator business and then diversified into ranching.

His retirement proved only nominal. Upon moving to the Upper Peninsula, where his wife's family had long ago homesteaded, Bob looked for a way to put his love of flying to work in service to others. He saw the need for seriously ill people to obtain medical treatment unavailable in the U.P., so he threw himself into what was to become Northwoods AirLifeline. With Bob as

pilot and Ruth as dispatcher, Northwoods AirLifeline literally took off. Since its founding in 1989, its volunteer pilots have flown more than 2,500 missions for persons needing urgent medical care.

Confounding the naysayers, Bob envisioned and brought into being a dedicated hangar for Northwoods AirLifeline at Ford Airport in Kingsford. In 2004, he was honored with the Ralph M. Sheehan Distinguished Service Award by Lions Clubs International.

His survivors include his wife of 61 years, Ruth; a daughter, Susan (David) Wedeking of Bethany, Okla.; two sons, John (Linda) of Barrington, Ill. and Bruce (Katherine) of Jefferson, Ohio; seven grandchildren; three step-grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. (Eastern time) on Monday at the First Baptist Church of Witch Lake.

A memorial service will follow at 2 p.m. (Eastern time) at the church. Pastor Jim Janofski will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in Bob's memory be made to Northwoods AirLifeline, P.O. Box 2973, Kingsford, MI 49802.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Bob Larson online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com).

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home with the funeral arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

TD

“ Dear Larson Family,

*We were sorry to learn of Bob's passing. Some of us saw him last summer at the Dillon's. It was great to catch up with the family activities. He spoke about the family, the lake. There was a particular twinkle in his eye when he spoke about getting to and from the airport in Iron Mountain.*

*Even though lately we don't get to see much of one another ? as our visits to Witch Lake have not overlapped and we can't be there today, we think of you often and wish you our condolences and deepest sympathy.*

*The Davis Family*

*Bud & Joanne ? Lake Forest and Florida,  
Peter & Mary ? Minnesota,  
Bill & Sue ? Northbrook,  
and of Witch Lake.*

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**The Davis'** - February 27, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ We only met Bob once, at Bruce's installation. He and Ruth were very gracious to all of us in Jefferson.

*Our prayers are with the family and friends gathering today.*

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**Betsy & ed Burke** - February 27, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Although I never met Bob, he impacted both my life and my families when he flew my mother to Chicago to obtain treatment for cancer at Northwestern Hospital. She was able to avoid the discomfort of the drive, plus fly over the summer home on Lake Elwood she loved so much. He truly must have been a fine, caring man and will be missed greatly. My condolences to his whole family.

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**Mark Anderson** - February 27, 2006 at 12:00 AM

VB

“ Sorry for your lost. Bob was the sweetiest, caring man and one of the first people we meant when moving to the UP. He and Ruth was very generous to us when we need a friend being so far from our friends and family. They extened their kindness to our children and attended both of their weddings. Bob will be missed and their will be no one that will take his place in our hearts.

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**Vicki & Jim Bunting** - February 27, 2006 at 12:00 AM