



Dale Frei

October 30, 1934 - March 29, 2020

M. Dale Frei, 85, of Breitung Township passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 29, 2020 at his home surrounded by his family as was his wish.

Dale was born October 30, 1934 in Fairwater, Wisconsin, son of the late Melvin and Margaret (Kobeal) Frei. He graduated from Markesan High School in 1953 and attended the University of Oshkosh for one year before enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. After serving his country, Dale returned home and married the late Marjorie (Michaels) Frei on June 28, 1958. They shared 57 years of devoted marriage together while raising five girls in Kingsford where they entertained the neighborhood kids in the pool that Dale dug with his own hands. Later in their marriage, Dale visited his wife every day in the nursing home for the many years she spent there until her passing in 2015.

Dale was a manager at Prudential Insurance Company for 30 years where he received numerous awards before retiring in 1990. He also received many awards for his dedication to improving the community and he served on several boards including the original Community Service Center, Police and Firefighter Pension (44 years), Trico (45 years), Armory Advisory Board, and was past chairman of the Community Schools Board. Dale was a member of St. Mary's Orthodox Church where he also served on the board for many years.

Dale loved his family and was an excellent father, grandfather, great-grandfather and was a pillar of strength to all of them. Every year he planted a huge pumpkin patch and put up a sign on the fence of the patch with all of his great-grandchildrens names on it so they could see it when they came up every fall to pick pumpkins and bake with their Great Grandpa Frei. Dale loved breakfast at Maple Creek, hunting, fishing, the Packers, and gardening. His flower and vegetable gardens were second to none and were the first stop when you came to visit before he took you on a pontoon ride down the Menominee River. Dale loved to build and develop property in the local area and was proud to put his own stamp of approval on them by naming the roads Dalmar Drive (Dale & Marge) Drive and Frei Drive. He was always good for a joke or two and his sense of humor will be missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by five daughters, Debbie (Scott) Lindholm of Lake Orion, MI, Tammy (Bill) VanVreede of Traverse City, MI, Tina (Terry) Rice of Breitung Township, Becky (Mike) Messer of Green Bay, WI, and Patti (Joe) Bronzyk of Breitung Township; one sister, Lori (Dee) Evans of Berlin, WI; grandchildren, Nicole (Brook) Mead, Jamie (Rob) Johnson, Jessica (Dave) Marsh, Michael (Jahaila) VanVreede, Dr. Tony (Tiffany) VanVreede, Billy (Briana) VanVreede, Katelyn (Nick) Shaffran, Dexter (Melissa) Ali, Bob Rice, Jim Rice, Kyle (Casey) Messer, Maria (Zach) Zimmerman, Thomas Whaley, Paige Whaley (Bryce Babiash), Alexa Bronzyk and Dane Bronzyk; great-grandchildren, Lleyton and Colette Mead, Charlee Johnson, Isla VanVreede, Nicholas, Ethan, Brendan VanVreede, Zoe and Skye VanVreede, Avery and Brantley Marsh and Zarina Ali; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his family members, he leaves behind his close friend and hunting and fishing partner, Russ Pietschmann.

Along with his wife, father and mother, Dale was preceded in death by his

sisters, Lynn Kohl and Sally Vickroy, brother, Phillip Frei and grandson, Ryan Rice.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 12 at 10:30 am at St. Mary Queen of Peace Church in Kingsford with Fr. Michael Woempner officiating. A luncheon will follow the service at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Kingsford. Due to Covid restrictions an RSVP is required for attendance at the luncheon. Please RSVP to Patti Bronzyk at 906-282-1594.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Trico.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Dale Frei online at www.enashfuneralhomes.com

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Quinnesec Cemetery

Menominee Street
Quinnesec, MI 49876

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 12. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church
600 Marquette Blvd.
Kingsford, MI

Tribute Wall

DS

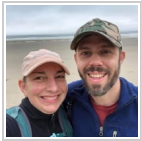
“ My heart goes out to you and family, Tina. Your dad was quit the character always had a sparkle in his eyes when telling his jokes at Maple Creek. Sure enjoyed them. Prayers for your family. RIP Dale.

Debby Sullivan - June 12, 2021 at 07:02 AM

KG

“ On behalf of the Giesau family, I send our sincere condolences. I have many good memories of him as I was growing up. I was glad to have known him and always felt he was like family. He was such a wonderful man. We are so sorry for your loss. All our love, from the Giesau family.

Kathryn Giesau - May 28, 2020 at 12:51 PM



“ Sincere condolences from the Blankenstein family. I have many memories of hunting with Dale and seeing him on the Menominee River in his pontoon boat. Both he and Marge were kind and loving people who were good examples for all of us.

Robert Blankenstein - May 27, 2020 at 07:18 PM

TC

“ Kim and I send our condolences to all of the Frei girls and your families. It's unfortunate that it takes times like this for us to reconnect and reflect on our times together. I can't wipe the smile off my face as I recall the times on the tennis court, tractor rides and, of course, the gatherings in your parent's back yard/pool. That Heights neighborhood was a special place to grow up. It wasn't until later in my life when I could realize how much your father was the central figure in that. I thank you all for the part he (and your mother) played in my life. Know that the flag was up when he arrived to heaven.

Todd Collins - April 14, 2020 at 10:33 AM

TV

Thank you Todd. Your kind words are so very much appreciated. We sure were blessed growing up with such great neighbors and lifelong friends.

Tammy VanVreede - June 08, 2020 at 05:23 AM

MD

“ I didn't know Dale personally, but I would like to send my condolences to a fellow Marines family and friends. Rest easy Sir. Semper Fi.

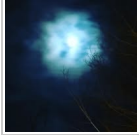
Michael Dragotta - April 09, 2020 at 01:47 PM



“ All 6 of the Hagan kids got to know Dale as "Grandpa Dale". He will be missed, especially when I need gardening advice!
Laura Hagan



Laura Conn Hagan - April 03, 2020 at 09:51 PM



“ So sorry for your loss, will miss his jokes and wonderful vegetables he so often have us when we delivered the mail. Sympathy to the whole family. Shelby & Joe

Sabrena Whitch - April 02, 2020 at 07:06 PM



“ I send my very sincere condolence to you for the passing of Dale Your Father, Grandfather, Great Grandfather, and friend. It was an honor and a privilege to know him.

With God's Blessing I'm praying that you will comfort one another and carry on as you know that is what he would want.

I didn't know Dale until I became associated with the Frei family because my son was dating his daughter. By that time we lived in different cities but our personal contact accelerated when we made common trips to visit Bill and Tammy in and around Traverse City. The one visit that was most impressive was to Michael's wedding at the top of the peninsula. Everyone attending the wedding met at the base of the hill to ascend to the top by cable car.

Dale and I were sent up before the attendees and were seated together where we could visit and observe as the large group of attendees came up by cable car and were seated. At this time we got to know each other very well as we discussed our lifetime history.

After the long length of time, Dale and I were seated in the right rows with our respective families. Michael, Jahaila and the wedding party then went to the very tip of the peninsula to exchange their wedding vows.

Then we all descended and went to a reserved building to celebrate.

What a beautiful day!!!!!!

God Bless you - you will meet your father again in heaven.

Carl VanVreede - April 02, 2020 at 11:27 AM

TV

Love this. It means so much. Love you!

Tammy VanVreede - April 03, 2020 at 12:25 AM

CK

“ *Dear Frei Family,*

Speaking for all the Belongie's, we just want to say how sorry we are about your dad's passing. He was such a good friend to our dad, and our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. When I visited with him during my dads viewing, he reminded me of the "great tennis matchup" back in the day! Remember that Tammy?

He had me laughing, and he brought up some very fond memories. Take care and God Bless!

Cindy Belongie Kelley

Cindy Kelley - April 02, 2020 at 07:10 AM

TV

What great memories Cindy. We both had great fathers. So grateful. My Dad and I talked about your family and how much we thought of all of you. Thanks for bringing back such good memories.

Tammy VanVreede - April 02, 2020 at 09:06 AM

CV

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



CAR VAN VREEDE - April 01, 2020 at 07:11 PM

TV

Oh how I love this

Tammy VanVreede - April 02, 2020 at 09:03 AM

AP

“ *Al & Emma St Peter lit a candle in memory of Dale Frei*



Al & Emma St Peter - April 01, 2020 at 12:03 PM

AP

“ *Dear Frei Family*

With a heavy heart I send my very sincere conolence to you for the passing of Dale. Your Father, Grandfather, Great Grandfathe, and friend. It was an honor and a priviledge to know him and work with him through his 40+ years with TRICO. Dale's support meant so much to me personally and professionally; and I was blessed to have him in my life. Dale's leadership and involement with TRICO was instrumental for the growth of the agency from the small beginning in the Brown Street Church to what it became today. As Chairman of the Board of Directors for many years he was not only an unwavering stable guiding TRICO; but he was involved in the day to day operation of the agency. All personnel knew Dale and felt comfortable to express concerns, ideas or just visit with him. His creation of an annual Board/Staff outing at his home with a pontoon ride, tour of his garden & bueatiful flowers, and an awesome barbeque courtesy of Tina & Terry forming a bonding of the TRICO family. As anyone who knew Dale, if he believed in something, he would immerse himself in it 200%. There was no accolades, awards, or personal gains for Dale he was dedicated, concerned and caring and his only reward was providing the best programs and services to those TRICO served. I have so many wonderful memories of Dale and he will truly be missed, including his jokes with some slightly "of color" Say Hi to Marg for me Dale

Al St Peter - April 01, 2020 at 12:01 PM

TV

Such a beautiful tribute to our Dad. Thank you so much. I know you and Trico were very dear to him.

Tammy VanVreede - April 02, 2020 at 09:08 AM

FC

“ I remember Dale taking all us girls picking rocks on his properties. 😊 It kept us out of trouble and taught strong ethics to his family. They felt like my own. Took me under their wing when I needed it most. I always loved his dry sense of humor also. My Sympathy to you all. Dale will be sadly missed.

Fran Chartier - March 31, 2020 at 11:02 PM

FC

And Dale coming to rescue Becky and I when our snowmobile would brake down. 😊

Fran Chartier - March 31, 2020 at 11:05 PM

DS

I honor thisman for his German fortitude, for pumpkin patches, and for giving the world such a lovely family. I love you all.

dore shaw - April 01, 2020 at 11:58 AM

PE

“ Tina, Terry and family, I'm very sorry to hear of Dales passing. You are all in our prayers. May God Bless you and keep you safe. Jim P.

peterson - March 31, 2020 at 07:22 PM

TW

“ I first met Uncle Dale in 1955, that's the year I was born. My mom was so fond of him that she blest my middle name after him. Although we didn't live close to him and his family I looked forward to seeing them whenever we could. He was probably the most constant man in my life! He was always interested in me and was an encouragement. As the years moved along and I married and had children of my own he always would ask how they were. He never missed a holiday call and never ended the call without telling me a joke. The love that he showed his family was second to none. He was always attending birthday's, graduations, weddings and was the rock of the family. When his mom and my mom were sick he would call everyday without fail and let them know that they were loved. He was the best man that I had ever known and he will be missed but his memory will live on until we meet again. Debbie, Tammy, Tina, Becky and Patty and your families are as close as any family that I know. I'm praying that you will comfort one another and carry on as you know that is what he would want.

Love ya all,
Todd

Todd Wendt - March 31, 2020 at 03:06 PM

TV

Thanks so much Todd. You were one of the last people he talked to before he died.

Tammy VanVreede - March 31, 2020 at 05:08 PM

DB

“ Hi Frei Girls,

Your Dad was one of a kind and a huge influence on us as the developer of the subdivision that he formed into a great neighborhood. We lived on Frei Drive longer than anywhere we have lived and cherish our time there. We could always count on Dale to "keep an eye on things" share his garden produce, keep the snow plowed, and be the best kind of neighbor one could have. He was proud of his garden, but his finest crop was his daughters. Our prayers and deep sympathy to your family.

David and Mary Lou Blomquist

David and Mary Lou Blomquist - March 31, 2020 at 02:45 PM

JD

“ *Dear Frei daughters and families. Am saddened to learn of the loss of another friend from our old Heights neighborhood. I have so many fond recollections of our families growing up together, the pools, the work bees, the tractor rides, the get-togethers/parties and so much more Dale and Marge were always such an integral part of all of these activities.*

I send my sincere condolences to all of you and wish that you find some solace in sharing all of the many great family memories that you each have.

You are in my thoughts.

*Jim Debelak
Woodinville, WA*

J Debelak - March 31, 2020 at 02:10 PM

JC

“ I met Dale and Marge Frei in 1980, after relocating to Iron Mountain from Marquette, MI. I was hired by The Prudential and worked under Dale's supervision. He was very knowledgeable of Prudential's products and systems. He was the ultimate salesman! I admired how he managed his personal life with a loving wife and five daughters, in addition to the agency force that he was in charge of in Iron Mountain. Dale had a cool demeanor and was slow to anger, which was a benefit to all who knew him. I will always remember the pool parties and "float boat" trips. These made us better friends. Thank you, Dale and family, for including me and my wife, Debbie, in your lives. Jeff Couper.

Jeffrey Couper - March 31, 2020 at 01:52 PM

ND

“ Sad to hear Dale passed. I had the honor of serving on the Trico board with Dale. I found Dale to be a committed and dedicated person when it came to the affairs of Trico where he served as board chairman for many years. I will remember his great smile and commitment to serve those less fortunate. Neil Dill

Neil Dill - March 31, 2020 at 01:13 PM

DC

“ I met Dale Frei in 1987, as I was reviewing my insurance policy with Prudential Insurance in Escanaba, MI. He was very kind and understanding with me. Years later, when I moved to Iron Mountain in 1994, I met my husband, Jeff Couper, who was an agent with Prudential. Dale and I were then re-acquainted. We would see each other on an occasional basis, as I delivered newspapers locally. He always had a great anecdote or joke to share. I remember a hot sunny day when Jeff and I were "tubing" near Dale's home and we became stranded. Dale smiled, offered us a cocktail, and came to our rescue. I will always remember Dale for being kind and for his sense of humor. Thank you for the memories, Dale. Rest in Peace, my friend. Debra Couper

Debra J Couper - March 31, 2020 at 12:48 PM