



## Ernest Thunell

February 9, 1912 - November 4, 2010

We lost a great man on Nov. 4, 2010, Ernest "Ernie" E. Thunell of Quinnesec. At the age of 98, he died peacefully at his home, surrounded by the love of his family.

Ernie was born on Feb. 9, 1912, in Hardwood to Erick and Hulda (Erickson) Thunell, pioneer residents of Hardwood, emigrating from Sweden with their daughter, Signe. Ernie and his five siblings, Elmer, Ruth, Lilly, Carl, and Ejnar were first generation U.S. citizens. They all preceded Ernie in death except his youngest brother, Ejnar.

During World War II, he served his country as a combat engineer in the African-European Theater from 1942-1945. He was awarded seven Battle Stars along with numerous medals. Ernie was a charter and life member of the Felch Breen Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4803. He served as post commander and held several other offices. He proudly marched in more than 50 Memorial Day Services.

Ernie was a hard worker. Besides starting out in his own "truckin' business" at the age of 17 with Model A's, Ernie worked at the Ford Motor Co. before and after World War II, and at Kingsford Chemical. He retired from Lakeshore in 1977 and enjoyed 33 years of retirement. He was a proud member of the United Auto Workers and Steel Workers Unions.

Ernie married Evelyn Lagerfeldt Mann and her three children, Jonathan, Bruce Allen, and Marilyn on Aug. 17, 1957, at the Presbyterian Church in Iron Mountain. The family moved to Quinnesec in 1958, where Ernie and Evelyn were blessed with two more children, Barbara and Roger.

Ernie was involved with youth organizations when his children were young. He was an active member of First Presbyterian Church. Ernie was an avid Packer Fan and a loyal Ford man, owning only Ford cars and trucks.

Ernie exemplified the greatest commandment. He was a man of few words, and lived his life with integrity, honesty, and loyalty. He treated everyone with respect and saw the good in everyone. He passed these qualities to his children by example.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Evelyn; his children, Jonathan Mann and wife, Betty, Bruce Allen Mann, Marilyn Reed and husband, Dave, Barbara Thunell, and Roger Thunell and wife, Cherie; his grandchildren, Brian Reed, Jeff Reed, Matthew Mann and wife, Dayna, Erick Thunell, Carina Thunell, and Elijah Thunell and his father, Michael Ward; his great-granddaughter, Ava Reed and her mother, Cherie Shane, and another great-granddaughter, due in January, baby girl Mann; brother, Ejnar Thunell; special nephew, Clarence "Putsie" Baker; a special cousin, Helen Nord Buckel; many nieces, nephews, cousins, good friends and Evelyn's sisters and their spouses, Jeanette "Sis" and George Gillette, Margie and Gene Churchill and Nancy and Gary Steiner.

Visitation will be Tuesday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church.

Funeral services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the church. Rev. Michael

March will officiate.

Burial will be in Quinnesec Cemetery. Graveside military rites will be accorded by the Felch Breen Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4803.

Ernie valued education and his faith, so memorials can be made to the scholarship fund at the First Presbyterian Church.

The family would like to acknowledge the wonderful care provided by the VA Medical Center staff, especially Dr. Cynthia Gannon and Becky, the R.N. They would also like to thank Ernie's caregivers, Jason, Shelly, and Julie.

Condolences to the family of Ernest Thunell can be expressed online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com).

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 9. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home  
901 Carpenter Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

## Visitation

NOV 10. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
395 Hamilton Avenue  
Kingsford, MI 49802

## Funeral Service

NOV 10. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
395 Hamilton Avenue  
Kingsford, MI 49802

# Tribute Wall

GS

“ Dear Evie and family,  
Gary and I would have loved to be up in Iron Mountain tonight on the eve of Ernie's funeral. Unfortunately Florida is far. Our children will be there representing us as they loved their Uncle Ernie and want to be a part of his beautiful family . Yes Evie, we are truly going to miss this great man and we are blesse to have had many years of his life with him. We did have two beautiful visits and even a great dinner with him in Sept when we were in I.M.  
Our love and a BIG BEAR HUG to You All  
Nancy & Gary Steiner

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**Gary & Nancy Lagerfeldt Steiner - sister-in-law** - November 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ Dear Sister & family. Ernie was without a doubt one of the most sincere and authentic people we have ever met. We are so saddened by knowledge we will not see, talk or listen to Ernie again. May God comfort you all.  
Love, Gene, Marge and Karissa

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**Gene & Marge Churchill - Lake Placid, FL - Brother-in-law** - November 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ Auntie Evie, my deepest and most sincere condolences to you and yours. Our entire family looked up to Uncle Ernie with such admiration and will miss him very much. I will never forget My Grandparent's 50th wedding anniversary when Grandpa Steiner introduced Uncle Ernie and acknowledged his age and good health. He stood up and celebrated in front of everyone making everyone laugh.

*He leaves behind a smile and zest for life no one will forget.*

*Love to you always,*

*Keara Lahiff & (my fiance) Sean Dill*

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**Keara Lahiff & Sean Dill - Middleton, WI, WI - Great niece** - November 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ So sorry for your loss, I will miss Ernie and our little "yard talks" what an amazing man. I feel blessed to have known him and have enjoyed you both as wonderful neighbors, you both have been a gift in lives of our family. God bless you and your family Evelyn, and if you ever need anything we are here for you.

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**Allie Slater , Tim Recla and family - next door neighbor and friend** - November 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ We were blessed to be good friends (Packer buddies) with Ernie for many years. What a wonderful person - and man. We have many great memories of times shared - and know that his family has All good memories.

*God Bless You All love from the Dukes*

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**Dorothy Duke - Niagara, WI - Good Friends** - November 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ With deepest condolences to the Thunell family we send this note. Sarah, Tyler and I wish warm and happy thoughts of remembrance for a great man and a great dad.

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**Brian, Sarah and Tyler Hug - MD** - November 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ I remember with Uncle Ernie and Ron were putting up the garage many years ago. I never seen anyone work like those 2. Also the suprise birthday party you threw for uncle Ernie. I will never forget those moments. You both were there for me and my mom when Ron died. My paryers are with you and your family

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**Rayne Cazzola (rons stepdaughter)** - November 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ We send you our deepest sympathy. God bless.

*Larry & Marilyn Holtien*

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**Larry and Marilyn Holtien - Green Bay, WI - friend of Mrs. Thunell** - November 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ Dear Aunt Evie,

*So sorry to hear about Uncle Ernie and your great loss! Uncle Ernie always had a smile for everyone and a powerful bear hug ! Words sometimes cannot express how much someone like him will be missed in the lives of all who loved him ! You and the family are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*The Peace of Christ to you. Love, Rebecca, Joel, Erin , Will and Julia Steiner*

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**Rebecca Steiner - Hartland , WI - neice in law** - November 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Evelyn and family, my prayers and thoughts are with you, I'm in Florida now for the winter, saw the sad news in the paper, God is with you and will take care of you, you have great memories, and we all share them with you. In God's love , Joyce Akkanen

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**Joyce Akkanen - Iron Mountain, MI - church family** - November 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ Ernie, I'll never forget how much you loved watching Quiz Bowl. Every Sunday during Bowl season I would come into church and know that there was someone I could talk to about the latest match-ups. I'm going to miss you, but I know you're doing fine now and I'll see you soon enough.

God's grace is with you,  
-Luke

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**Luke Anderson - Iron Mountain, MI - Church** - November 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ Ev, My condolences for the loss of your beloved Ernie. You had many years together, which will leave you with many wonderful memories. My prayers are with you and your family. Paul

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**paul moroni - bark river , MI - friend** - November 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM