



Francis "Ponch" Alexa

January 13, 1932 - April 21, 2021

Francis "Ponch" Alexa died peacefully on April 21, 2021, at the Veteran's Community Living Center in Iron Mountain, Michigan, at the age of 89. He was born in Crystal Falls, Michigan, on January 13, 1932.

Ponch married his high school sweetheart, Joan Berg, 68 years ago with whom they had five children Steve (Kathy) Alexa, Pam (Don) Minerick, Laurie (Mike) Jauquet, Julie (David) Roell, and Mike (Lori) Alexa. Ponch was the proud grandfather of nineteen grandchildren, thirty-one great-grandchildren, and two great-great-granddaughters to complete five generations.

Ponch and Joan were married August 15, 1953, in Chicago following his discharge from the Coast Guard. While in Chicago he worked as a cabinet maker and designer. Some of his creations were displays featured in the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. The family moved to Coleman, WI, where Ponch continued to work as a cabinet maker. They relocated to Gwinn when Ponch began work at the mines and then quickly moved back to the Sagola area. Ponch built homes, cabinets, and did remodeling in his spare time, and he built their home on Sawyer Lake in Channing, Michigan. Ponch and Joan spent 23 winters in Mulberry, FL, and they met many good friends there.

They spent their 65th wedding anniversary at Firekeepers Restaurant at the

Island Resort and Casino with all their children in attendance, along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Ponch's favorite hobby was golf, playing golf as well as watching it on television. He also liked to go to the casinos and eat out at different restaurants. He was a lifelong member of St. Rose Church, Sagola Twp. Sportsman's Club, and a member of the Cuculi-Baraga American Legion Post. Ponch enjoyed spending time with his family, except on his birthday unless he had an escape route planned!

Visitation will be held at St. Rose Catholic Church in Channing, MI, on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, from 9:30 - 11:00 am. Funeral services will follow at 11:00 am at the church. Fr. Dan Malone will offer the Mass of Christian Burial. Burial in the Channing Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established in his memory.

A special thank you to the entire staff at the Veteran's Community Living Center. Your care and respect shown to our dad while he was under your watch was so appreciated and treasured by him, as well as by our family.

Condolences to the family of Francis "Ponch" Alexa may be expressed online at ernashnashfuneralhomes.com.

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

Cemetery Details

Channing Cemetery

Byers Rd.
Channing, MI 49815

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 27. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Rose Catholic Church
703 Bell Ave.
Channing, MI 49815

Funeral Service

APR 27. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Rose Catholic Church
703 Bell Ave.
Channing, MI 49815

Tribute Wall

DH

“ Dear Joan and Family,

Your husband and father was highly regarded by all who knew him. The 4th of July parades with Ponch and the vets marching gave us onlookers goosebumps and pride for our country's freedom.

With many happy memories of seeing Joan and Ponch in our community.

With loving condolences,

Debra Bloom Haven

Debra Haven - May 23, 2021 at 05:29 PM

GC

“ *Ponch was such a special friend...always cheery and smiling. George and I always enjoyed his company. Rest In Peace, friend!*
♥♥ *Ginny and the late George Corrigan*

Ginny Corrigan - April 24, 2021 at 06:59 PM

SP

“ *My Deepest Symphony to the family of Ponch so glad I got to meet him at the Senior Center in Sagola. I really like Joan . Just know son Mike. May Ponch RIP now* 🙏🙏🙏🇺🇸🇺🇸

Susan Piatti - April 24, 2021 at 12:39 PM

CL

“ There are times when the right words just don't exist...We hope it will help you a little to know how much we are thinking of you and how much we care.

In deepest sympathy

Glenn and Charlene Lee

Cheryl Haas

charlene lee - April 24, 2021 at 12:10 PM



“ Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Francis "Ponch" Alexa.



April 24, 2021 at 09:58 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Francis "Ponch" Alexa.



April 23, 2021 at 10:40 AM

LE

“ Love, Kerry & Dan Etersky purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Francis "Ponch" Alexa.



Love, Kerry & Dan Etersky - April 22, 2021 at 12:43 PM

YF

“ Your Champion Charter Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Francis "Ponch" Alexa.



Your Champion Charter Family - April 22, 2021 at 12:27 PM

KE

“ Kerry & Dan Etersky lit a candle in memory of Francis "Ponch" Alexa



Kerry & Dan Etersky - April 22, 2021 at 11:23 AM

KW

*Our deepest sympathy and Blessing's from us all--
Ruth Wagner & family.*

Kris Wagner - April 24, 2021 at 05:47 PM

BT

*Joan,
Our sympathy goes out to you and your family. May your fond
memories and wonderful family give you comfort.
Frank and Betsy Trumbell*

Betsy Trumbell - April 27, 2021 at 11:47 AM