



Joseph Wender

October 19, 1931 - October 19, 2011

Joseph A. Wender, 80 of Upper Pine Creek Rd., Iron Mountain, passed away on Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at the Oscar G. Johnson V.A. Medical Center in Iron Mountain.

Joe was born December 13, 1930 in Iron Mountain, son of the late Alphonse and Mary (Switzer) Wender. He graduated from Kingsford High School in 1948 and was a lifelong resident of the area. Joe enlisted in the U.S. Army in January of 1952 and served his country during the Korean War. He received the Korean Service Medal with three bronze service stars, the U.N. Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, a Combat Infantry Badge and a Purple Heart and was honorably discharged as a sergeant first class in October 1953. Joe married Mary Dorfler, the love of his life, on February 4, 1956 at American Martyrs Church in Kingsford. Joe started Wender Logging, Inc. which he operated for over 40 years, retiring in 1997. He showed a great respect for nature and always took care not to disturb the land or damage trees that were not harvested. He was a member of the D.A.V. and the Order of the Purple Heart. Joe was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting whitetail deer and gardening. He was always willing to donate his time to help others and made family his number one priority.

Joe is survived by his wife of 55 years, Mary; four children, Dan (Lisa) Wender of Iron Mountain, Linn Wender Kesler of Minneapolis, Gary (Paula) Wender of

Iron Mountain and Dale (Louise) Wender of Iron Mountain; a brother, Henry (Sheila) Wender of Iron Mountain; nine grandchildren, Neil and Nicholas Wender, Matt (Liz) Kesler, David Kesler, Calley Kesler, Ryan (Randi) Wender, Anthony Wender, and Chelsea & Whitney Wender; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by six brothers, Moni, John, Simon, Ernie, Edward and Fran Wender and one sister, Evelyn Bilski.

Visitation will be held from 11:00am until 2:00pm on Sunday at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain. Funeral services will follow at 2:00pm at the funeral home. Fr. Joseph Gouin will officiate. Burial will be in the Quinnesec Cemetery.

Joe's grandsons will serve him as pallbearers with love, honor, and utmost respect.

Condolences to the family of Joseph A. Wender may be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

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

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **23**. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

OCT **23**. 2:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

LD

“ Thank you all for your kind thoughts, I will pass them on to my mom.

Linn Wender Kesler - Minneapolis, MN - daughter - October 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ I know my father, Robert (Bob) Perdzock, would want to send his condolences to your family, and also a special condolence to Joe's brother, Henry. He shared many fond memories of going to the Wender farm as a child, as his parents, Eleanore and John Perdzock were good friends of the elder Wender's. We lost our dad last November, but he never forgot about the delicious bread served by Mary in her kitchen!

Joanne Perdzock Coughlin - October 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Dear Mary & Family,
Our deepest sympathy to you and the whole family at this sad time. Now is the time that you need your strong family for support & comfort.
When I think of Joe I would relate him to a strong oak tree. He spread his branches over all of you and sheltered, nourished, protected and loved every member of his family. He is still there watching over all of you. Hopefully you can take comfort in remembering all the happy times in your life and the struggles that are part of life that in turn makes a good marriage and strong family. He has left a beautiful legacy in your children and grandchildren. Remember him as that happy, vigorous and hard working young man you married.
He grew the best tomatoes!!!!
Love
Donna & Jim

Donna McCash - Iron Mountain, MI - Friend - October 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ Aunt Mary and Family;
I am so sorry for the loss of Joe. He was a special man, he treated me and all people with respect. He was quick to offer his friendship and help. I have the deepest respect for Joe, and the entire Wender Family.
My Apologies for not making the Funeral. My family has your Family in our Prayers.
We are planning a Donation in Joe's Memory.
Love but with Sorry,
Kurt, Jill, Kyle, Jenna Dorfler
1380 Circle Drive
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Kurt Dorfler Family - Sun Prairie , WI - Nephew - October 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *Expressing my deepest sympathy to the Wender family in loss of Joe Wender.*
My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.
Love, Blanche Trepanier Tuxhorn

Blanche Tuxhorn - St. Petersburg, FL - Old friend - October 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *MARY, I WAS SORRY TO HEAR OF YOUR LOSS. HAPPY THAT YOU HAVE A LOT OF FAMLIIY AROUND YOU. YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF. I AM NOT VERY GOOD AT WORDS, BUT WILL SAY A PRAY FOR YOU.*

Betty Cadieu-Catalano - Clinton Twp,, MI - H.S. with wife Mary - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM