



Louis "Uncle Louie" Goffett

July 31, 1921 - December 13, 2010

Louis D. Goffett, "Uncle Louie", 89, of Iron Mountain, died Mon. Dec. 13, 2010 at Freeman's Nursing and Rehabilitation Community in Kingsford. He was born on July 31, 1921 in Iron Mountain, the son of the late Louis and Josephine (Bacco) Goffett.

As a young man, he loved to play the accordion, and since money wasn't plentiful, he did odd jobs, including a paper route to earn money for his accordion and supplies. At the age of 16 he started playing in local establishments. After graduating from Iron Mountain High School and a difference of opinion with his dad, Louie decided to go out on his own. With a \$20 bill and a Model A, he left Iron Mountain and ended up in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He entertained in Idaho for three months and then went on to Montana before becoming homesick. He ended up taking the Greyhound home with \$5 in his hand.

Upon his return to Iron Mountain he started playing with the Aristocrats of Rhythm with Phil & Tony Doda and Fonsie Secinaro. When the band broke up he played solo at many area clubs including the Silo in Spread Eagle and with Roy Johnson at the area's dance halls.

Louie then ventured on to Chicago, where he married the love of his life Jeannette Kassin on May 16, 1942 in a Civil Ceremony. When their families

found they had married in a civil ceremony they insisted the marriage be blessed by the church, but Louis was in Australia with the Navy so they were married again by proxy. When he returned from the service they had their marriage blessed by the church again so he could be there in person. Louis and Jeannette also renewed their vows on their 25th & 50th anniversaries.

Louie enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II where he was a Machinist Mate First Class. He worked in the ships engine room but he spent his free time entertaining the crew with his accordion. He earned a Good Conduct Medal, the American Area Ribbon and Asiatic Pacific Campaign Ribbon 1 Star. His ship traveled to such places as Trinidad, Cuba, Panama Canal, Hawaii, Australia, and he was in Tokyo Bay when the treaty with Japan was signed.

In 1950 Louie went to Music College in Chicago where he taught as many as 100 students a week. He had accordion bands which won awards in several competitions. When he returned back to this area, he taught music to students at many area schools and at the studio in his home on the East Side of Iron Mountain. His students ranged in age from 3 to 80 years of age. He taught piano, organ, accordion, guitar, drums, violin and various band instruments. Many of his students have gone on to have successful careers in Music themselves. He also played for many events and parties at the Chippewa Club. Uncle Louie's career spanned a total of fifty years and 46 New Year's Eve performances. He retired so he could spend more time with his love Jeannette after being away from her playing for parties for so many weekends. He came out of retirement for one final performance at his granddaughter Nanette's wedding.

Louie also had a strong faith and was a member of St. Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church. He was a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus, where he helped run Bingo. Louis spent many hours with Jeannette watching

his Great Grandchildren and taking walks with their dog Penny. Louie also enjoyed playing cards, especially Smear and Cribbage, and had played in many tournaments.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Jeannette, one daughter Heddy Lou (Mark Evrard) Pearson of Kingsford, two grandchildren Nanette (Jeff) Sjoquist of Kingsford and Brian (Lisa) Pearson of Iron Mountain, five great grandchildren Brad Sjoquist, Dan Sjoquist, Randi Pearson, Holly Pearson, and Dillon Uren, and nieces nephews.

Louie was preceded in death by his parents, Louis Goffett & Josephine (Goffett) Pesavento, a step father John Pesavento, and two sisters Eileen and Lucille.

Visitation will be Mon, December 20, from 9:30-11:00 am at St. Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church. Funeral services will follow at 11am at the church. Father Paul Nomellini will celebrate the Mass of Christian Burial. Burial will be in Cemetery Park.

Condolences to the family of Louis "Uncle Louie" Goffett can be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

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

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **20**. 9:30 PM - 11:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church
432 Edsel
Kingsford, MI 49802

Funeral Mass

DEC **20**. 11:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church
432 Edsel
Kingsford, MI 49802

Tribute Wall

DS

“ I took lessons from Mr. Goffett several years until he retired. I remember how friendly and patient he was. He always offered a friendly "hello" whenever I saw him in church. My sincere condolences to the Goffett family.

Dominique (Kercheval) Grve - student - December 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ so sorry to hear about Uncle Louie. He was a great guy. Please except oiur condolences to all the family. The Rodericks

Renee Roderick Cram - Crystal Falls, , MI - was a piano teacher to my sister -
December 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Brian and Nanette - I'm unable to attend the service and wanted to express my fond memories of your grandpa; I often tell my two boys about the incredible childhood I enjoyed and Uncle Louie and your grandma were certainly part of that wonderful time. On behalf of the Celello family, our thoughts are with you and your families.

Michael Celello - MI - December 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *Dear Heddy Lou and Family,
We were saddened to read of Louie's death. You may be surprised to know that Jack once (very briefly) took accordion lessons from Louie. Something he will never forget and that was a very long time ago.
We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. My mother, Margaret Wittcock Swanson, is spending the winter here with us and wishes to express her sympathy also.
Sincerely,
Jack and Judy Beauchamp*

Jack and Judy Beauchamp - Riverview, FL - Friend and Student - December 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

NF

“ *Today is a sad day for me. I have many fond memories of my times with Loui. Several years of piano lessons which gave me the critical foundation necessary to perform professionally. This gift from him gave me the best times and memories of my life. He was always quick with a joke to lighten the mood. The world is now a lonelier place without him in it. He was a great inspiration to me. I will miss him.*

Nick Romagnoli - Williamsburg, MI - Friend/Student - December 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TN

“ *Dear Auntie Jeannette and family:*

When I think of Uncle Louie, I recall the airplane ride Uncle Louie and Aunt Jeannette took me on when I was about 12-13 over the city of Chicago. Aunt Jeannette and I were both so scared! I remember there were oil cans on the floorboard of the airplane, and one pilot was sleeping. Uncle Louie was not afraid - he thought it was funny! I also appreciate the time they spent with my mom when she was in the Freeman nursing home. Over the four years she was a resident there, they never missed seeing her at least once a week. My wife, Kathi, and I extend our condolences to all of Uncle Louie's family. We both will miss his wonderful sense of humor and quiet ways.

*With love and prayers,
Tom McCole*

Thomas McCole - Green Bay, WI - Nephew - December 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ *To the Goffett Family,*

I was an organ student of Mr. Goffett over 25 years ago. I will always remember his smile and the way he would hum to all of the songs I played. He was such a genuine and sincere man and will be greatly missed by all those who know him. I still have that same organ today, and all of the music that Mr. Goffett gave me. Heartfelt sympathy to your entire family, and a big Thank You to Mr. Goffett for the time and patience that was given to me.

Allison Rodman Waliczek - Florence, WI - former organ student - December 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

J2

“ Jeanette,
Sorry to hear about Louie. Missed his old Navy stories.
Really missed you both. God Bless.

John & Joanne Schreiner - West Allis, 53214, WI - Neighbors, 2001 to 2009 -
December 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ To the Goffett Family -

As a child, I took organ lessons from Mr Goffett. I remember he would always humor me each week and play the flight of the bumblebee. Unfortunately I never learned how to master that myself, but I always enjoyed hearing him play - he was a great teacher. My thoughts are with his family and friends at this difficult time.

Lori (Parsons) Smith - Minneapolis, MN - Student - December 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ So sorry to hear about Louie, I remember taking piano lessons from him, but I also remember him playing at the "Buddy Bar". He sure could make that accordian sing. I was just looking at a movie of him playing at my Grandma Vi's birthday party. She was enjoying his playing so much, as we all did. His smile will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you, Jeanette, and the rest of your family.

Kathie (Goettler) Campos - Kingsford, MI - Piano student and friend - December 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ Dear Aunt Jeannette and Heddy Lou,
Thinking of you and sending warm thoughts in celebration of Uncle Louis life. I will always remember coming to your house for piano lessons with my sisters. While one of us was having a lesson with Uncle Louis, the rest of us would be eating apples and watching tv with Aunt Jeannette. My favorite recent memory were stories he shared about living in Chicago.
May all your memories give you comfort during this time. God Bless!
Love, -Amanda & Doug

Amanda (Lake) Benjamin - Relative - December 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Jeanette - Hedy, Good looking picture . He sure could hump on that accordian. Take care, Love the Ambrosia's

Ray Ambrosia - Aurora, WI - Accordion Student - December 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ So many memories growing up on the East Side two blocks from Uncle Louie and Jeanette and Hedy Lou. In the past few years it was always a treat to meet them shopping. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.
With love, Julie V.

Julie Verrette - Florence, WI - Relative - December 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ Sorry to hear about Uncle Louie. I remember taking piano and music theory lessons from him when i was a teenager.

Joanne Marie 'Verrette' Backhaus - Genesee Depot, WI - Neice - December 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ *Louie was my teacher for several years. I thought that he was innovative in the way he taught and I truly enjoyed every lesson with him. The angels will play their harps much better with Louie up there. God bless you and may you rest in peace Louie! You made a huge difference in my life.! Thank you!*

Gregg Ball - Mesa, AZ - guitar and bass guitar student - December 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ *To the Goffett family, Mr. Goffett was my organ teacher for many years as a kid & I will forever be grateful for those lessons. Though I used to complain about practicing, I know my love for music stems from those many hours I spent playing. I took lessons at his house & at my house and still have music books with sheet music written in his hand. Please accept my offer of sympathy along with a big "thank you" for the influence he had on my life. Kris Czerwan*

Kris Gussert-Czerwan - December 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ *Dear Nan and Jeanette,
So sorry to hear of the loss of your loved one. May he rest in peace. He will be missed by many.*

Paula Johnson - Iron Mt, MI - December 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ *Uncle Louie was the greatest music teacher ever, even though we fought a lot, I also learned a lot from him. I am still playing after 50 years. A great man!!! I will miss him.*

kathy cowell - crystal falls, MI - friend - December 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ I took accordian lessons from Mr. Goffett when I was 5 years old.
My condolences to his family and friends.

Agnes Duda Keller - Crandon, WI - Former Student - December 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ My deepest sympathy to the Goffett family & all that knew "Uncle Louie". It's been many years since I had weekly guitar lessons, in his basement on the East side of Iron Mountain - but the memories remain. I've seen Uncle Louie only a handful of times since then, but we always had a chat & that always brought back good times. May God bless his soul & may he rest in peace.

Mike Sarder - Barnwell, SC - former guitar student - December 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM