



William Champion

May 31, 1925 - May 31, 2011

William R. Champion, 86, of Iron Mountain, passed away on May 31, 2011, at the Oscar G. Johnson V.A. Medical Center in Iron Mountain.

Bill was born on Aug. 14, 1924, in Iron River, son of the late Herbert and Verna (Snowdon) Champion. He was a graduate of Iron Mountain High School.

Bill served during World War II with the U.S Marine Corp. in the Pacific Theatre of Operations from 1943-1946. He received the Purple Heart for wounds received in the Marshall Islands. Bill received various other medals and campaign ribbons during his overseas military service.

He married the former Dolores Franklin on Dec. 21, 1947, at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain. Bill worked for Niagara of Wisconsin/Pentair/Kimberly-Clark for 36 years, retiring in 1986.

He was an active member of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church. He was also a member of the Uren-Cooper-Johnson American Legion Post 50, the Military Order of the Purple Heart (past state commander), Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

Bill's hobby was volunteering. He volunteered over 3,500 hours at the Iron

Mountain VA Medical Center and thousands more hours for his church, the Office of Veterans Affairs and other local organizations. He enjoyed hunting and especially loved spending time at the family camp.

Bill is survived by his wife, Dolores; three sons, Stephen (Jill) Champion of Kingsford, David (Debbie) Champion of Gladstone and Christopher (Carrie) Champion of Kingsford; a sister, Louisa Larson of Racine, Wis.; grandchildren, Lisa (Dustin) Kimball, Paul Champion, Mike (Emily) Champion, Kristin Champion, Scott Champion, Lacey and Lucas Setner, and Lauren Champion; eight great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Alice Giachino and Joyce Soderberg; a brother, Gale Champion; and a great-granddaughter, Lila Kimball.

Visitation will be Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain.

Memorial services will be Saturday at 12 noon at the church. Pastor Ronald Zindler will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established in Bill's memory to his favorite charities.

Condolences to the family of William Champion may be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

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

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 4. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Mount Olive Lutheran Church
corner of H and Stockbridge
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Memorial Service

JUN 4. 12:00 PM (CT)

Mount Olive Lutheran Church
corner of H and Stockbridge
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Tribute Wall

CN

“ *My deepest sympathy to you all. Mr. Champion was a wonderful supporter of the veterans at the VA Medical Center. He will truly be missed.*

Cynthia Gordon - Iron Mountain, MI - Retired VA Chief Nurse - June 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *Dear Delores,
Jeanette called us today and told us the sad news that Bill had passed away. You are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Though we know he is in a far better place with his Lord, he is mourned and will be missed by all who knew him. Take care and know we care.
Your Texas friends,
Ruth and Rol*

Roland and Ruth Eckstorm - Plano, TX - long time friends - June 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ *We love you and will miss you very much.*

David and Deborah Champion - Gladstone, MI - son and daughter-in-law - June 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ *Our sincere condolences for your loss, from all the Patriots of Chapter 180*

Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 180 - Saginaw, MI - Patriots - June 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM