



William Rabenberg

May 11, 1932 - May 11, 2008

EAST KINGSFORD - William D. Rabenberg, 76, of East Kingsford, died peacefully on Sunday, May 11, 2008, at ManorCare Health Services in Kingsford, surrounded by his loving family.

Bill was born Sept. 2, 1931, at his parent's home in Kingsford. He graduated from Kingsford High School in 1949. After high school, he worked with his father, George, in construction. They worked on the old Kingsford High School cafeteria. Bill also performed repairs on the First Presbyterian Church on Hamilton Avenue.

In 1951, he joined the U.S. Air Force and served for four years during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged in 1955.

In the fall of 1955, he met Mary Lou Miller, whom he married on Feb. 14, 1959. They were the first couple married in the new sanctuary at the First Presbyterian Church in Kingsford.

Bill and his partner Al "Red" Cootware owned RC Specialty Contractors, a construction company. He built his family home where his four children were raised. Bill also worked for Champion, Inc. He was a supervisor of Breitung Township and also served a time as superintendent of the township.

Bill served as secretary for CUPPAD in Escanaba. Bill supervised the building of the current Iron Mountain-Kingsford Community Federal Credit Union. Bill volunteered many years on several committees at the credit union including supervisory and served on the board of directors. He was a member of the Land Fill Authority and American Legion Post 363. He was elected the chairman of the Dickinson Area Construction Code Commission.

Bill was a hard-working, sincere, and honest person, always striving for perfection. His family was his pride and joy. Camping with his family for Labor Day weekend and celebrating his birthday brought years of enjoyment to him, his wife and the entire family. Bill and Mary Lou became members of the Good Sam Club and shared many adventures with the group as they traveled to several campgrounds.

Bill is survived by his adoring wife, Mary Lou, who was by his side throughout his long illness. He is also survived by his children, Kay L. Pietrzyk of Quinnesec, Mary E. (Dale) Jarvis of Niagara, Wis., Julie A. (Charlie) VanGinkel of Spread Eagle, Wis. and William G. Rabenberg of East Kingsford; his six grandchildren, Brad VanGinkel, Bailey VanGinkel, Steve Jarvis, Jenny Jarvis, Celina Pietrzyk, and Skylar Rabenberg; his sister, Charlotte (Jack) Hayes of Aliso Viejo, Calif.; his sister-in-law, Betty Miller of Kingsford, and several nieces, nephews, and many wonderful friends.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, George H. and Carrie A. (Olson) Rabenberg; his mother-in-law, Laura (Mack) Miller; brother-in-law Delor Miller, and several aunts, uncles, and cousins in South Dakota and California.

Bill was loved and cared for by his extended family at ManorCare Health Services. He resided there for more than two years and received exceptional care. His family truly appreciates all the hard-working, devoted employees who cared for him.

Friends may call from 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Friday at the First Presbyterian Church in Kingsford.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday at the church. Rev. Michael March will officiate.

Burial will be in the Quinnesec Cemetery.

Honorary pallbearers will be Al "Red" Cootware, Jim Rocconi, Lloyd Cudnohufsky, Roger Deau, Bobby Gunville, and Joe Smeester.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established in his memory.

Condolences to the family of William D. Rabenberg can be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

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

Tribute Wall

GM

“ *Rabenberg Family;*

My memories of your family are from Childhood. As kids we played together. I am sorry for the loss of Bill. The last time I saw him, MaryLou and he were watching a movie and cuddled at Manor Care. He was so lucky to have such a loving wife and family.

Take Care Kay Lynn, Mary Beth and Julie And Little Bill of your Mother..... She has been so loyal to your Dad....

Grace Michaud

Grace Michaud - May 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ *Mary Lou,*

I am so sorry to hear about Bill. My thoughts are with you during this sad time. Wish I could have been there for the funeral but I am out on the road.

Ray Emond

Ray & Debbie Emond - May 16, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ *Dear MaryLou and family; It is with sadness that I find we have lost another of Kingsford's Class of 1949....Wish I could be there to express my condolences in person but wanted you to know that my thoughts and prayers are with you at this time...He was a great guy and am sure he will be missed by many...Sincerely....Lois Verley Ring*

Lois Verley Ring - May 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Kay, Mary, & families - very sorry to read of your fathers passing. He is certain to be at rest and in a happier place. You have my & Melanies condolences and prayers. Just want to you to know that during these sad times, others are thinking of you & your loss.

Mike Sarder - May 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Dear Mrs. Rabenberg, Mary Beth and family-
I read about Mr. Rabenberg this morning; I am so very sorry for your loss. I remember spending many days playing at your house and how I had always been so intimidated by him because he was such a big man. Now I just remember him as being a "gentle giant" -- always busy working on building the upstairs of your home. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you all.
Love - Mary Kay

Mary Kay McKenney - May 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM