



Eric J Motyka

December 20, 1912 - April 7, 2006

Eric John Motyka, 93, Columbus, passed away Friday, April 7, 2006. He was born December 20, 1912 in Philadelphia, PA.

Eric married Frances Podsiadlo on August 22, 1936. They were married for 65 years before her unexpected death on May 18, 2002.

Eric was a member of the Macomb Township Volunteer Fire Department in his youth. He worked and retired from Metro Beach, a place he loved. After retirement, Eric and Frances enjoyed traveling until they settled in Roscommon. There he kept busy with his home and garden projects. After his wife's death, he moved to Columbus to be close to his family. He was able to do that, especially with his great-grandchildren. Eric was a member of St. Philip Neri Church in Columbus Township. He was a very active person up until a year ago. He enjoyed gardening, cooking for himself and bird watching. Eric is survived by his daughters, Shirley (Dean) Barnett of Columbus, Lorraine (Jerry) Hellner of Kenosha, and Carol Droz of North Dakota; also surviving are his 16 grandchildren, John (Lynn) Surprenant, David (Diane) Surprenant, Anne (Dean) Howard, Elizabeth (Keith) Merritt, Theresa (Tom) Geck, Steven Surprenant, Christine (Michael) Carnegie, Kathy (Jeff) Carnegie, Cheryl (Greg) Smolarek, Denise (Ray) Pechman, Eric Droz, Angela (Joe) Homic, Gwendoline (Grant) Poyner, Karen (Sean) Corrigan, Nanette (Mike) Murphy, and Peter Droz. He also will be missed by his 30 great-grandchildren and his siblings, Isabell Ferinac, Mildred Bailey and Ernie Motyka.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Casmeria Czyzewska Motyka, brothers Witold and Rudolph and sisters Amelia, Romualda and Aurelia and a granddaughter Frances Droz.

Visitation to celebrate the long life Eric lived will be Monday 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. ,rosary at 7:00 p.m., and Wednesday 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Kaatz Funeral Directors, Richmond. Rite of Christian Burial will be 11:00 a.m. Wednesday at St. Phillips Neri Catholic Church, Columbus Township. Fr. Joseph Horn, pastor, will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to St. Philip Neri Catholic Church or Blue Water Hospice.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 10. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Kaatz Funeral Directors - Richmond
71235 Memphis Ridge Road
Richmond, MI

Visitation

APR 11. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Kaatz Funeral Directors - Richmond
71235 Memphis Ridge Road
Richmond, MI

Visitation

APR 12. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Kaatz Funeral Directors - Richmond
71235 Memphis Ridge Road
Richmond, MI

Service

APR 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Family Parish Columbus
9735 Dolan Road
Columbus, MI

Tribute Wall



“ I'll miss my Grandfather, Eric J. Motyka. Through his life and in our times together, he has taught me so much, in his words...in his actions. In childhood, he was my "engine" on my favorite wagon, my "pusher" on the swing set in his yard, my "ladder" to get up the trees in his yard to climb...always there to catch me if I fell, like he always was in my life.....and so many others lives. The trips we took to the fire station where he so proudly volunteered, the trips to Monikees with the other firemen, treating me to a root beer or orange soda. Teaching me how to "measure twice and cut once", how to properly free that rusty nut, how to cut grass, take care of a yard as I turned into a teenager. Teaching me how to grow and put up a pretty tasty pickle, how to properly paint, how to always try to do my best. Lessons over the years on how to repair pipes, clean fireplaces, marinate and cook flank steak so it tasted like the most expensive filet mignon. This was my Grandpa, a teacher.....a mentor....a friend. Our yearly fall rituals of us driving up to Roscommon to cut down and split wood together were always more than a necessary task....it was a chance to visit, to talk and in my case, always to learn something from him. A chance to enjoy my Grandmothers and Grandfathers cooking, to simply sit and watch the birds or deer or even a favorite cooking show of his together, a chance to feel welcomed....loved.....and cared for.

Over the past few years, many things had changed, but in many ways, with Grandpa, some things never changed. From his typical telephone answer, that long drawn out "Ha-loooo", to his constant caring of others. When I remarried, he took an interest in my wife right away, warmly welcoming her, complimenting her on the jams or cookies we would often bring to him, and even while ill, would always follow up my question on how he was feeling with "How's your wife feeling?". This past Christmas, we had the chance to have Grandpa over with the family to celebrate and it's a special memory for us. Even weak and walking with a cane, he managed to take a look at the on-going renovations and give his approval, at dinner, enjoying and complimenting on some of his favorites, and the old spark was still in his eye as he sat and watched the Grandchildren

open presents.....yeah, some things never change.Always interested in how we were doing, how things were going for us, asking if we wanted coffee or something to drink, if we were warm enough.....it seemed he never wanted to be the "center of attention", but he was always at the center of our hearts.....our souls for being so caring.

My Grandpa taught me so much, whether he intended too, or even knew it, I'm not really sure. He taught more so by living, than his words.....his simplistic approach, his never ending patience, his kindness and thoughtfulness of others are things we all could learn from. Never one to be extravagant, Grandpa believed in enjoying, savouring, taking pride and satisfaction in what you had.....a good cup of coffee, a great bar-b-q with family, a happy holiday or birthday get together to hear-see and enjoy his families laughter,the graceful running of a deer through his property, the flitting of a hummingbirds wings at his feeder, the homebuilt shelf or tool that did the job even better than a fancy, more expensive store bought item....he was happy beyond all belief over these simple truths in life, simple things we all seem to overlook at times in our rushing through our lives. If he taught me anything, its that we already have what we are searching for.....we have life all around us, everyday, and if you just stop to be thankful for it, grateful for it, our lives can be as full and rich as his was.....and in doing so, maybe enrich the lives of other loved ones around us.

A simple man, a happy man, a humble man, a thoughtful man, a caring man, a talented man, a loving man.....that is my Grandfather, Eric J. Motyka.....and I'm going to miss, and cherish, my Grandfather.Today, another angel is surely smiling.....my Grandmother has her be

April 11, 2006 at 01:50 PM



“ Grandpa, you will be dearly missed. The memories you have given me and everyone will live on in our hearts. You lived a long and great life, your love for your family showed by everything you did. I tell my children stories of you and Grandma and wish they could have known you like I did. We will be planting a tree this summer in our backyard to honor you and your love of the outdoors.

Love The Poyners##imported-begin##Gwendoline (Droz), Grant, Talon and Teah Poyner##imported-end##

April 11, 2006 at 08:50 AM



“ My heart and prayers go to Eric and his family including my wife, Karen Corrigan. It is with great regret that his great-grandchild, our daughter, Caitlin or I never had a chance to meet him, but from what my wife has told me about him, he had an extraordinary life and such a large family that loved him. He will be surely missed.

Our deepest sympathies,
The Corrigan's (Sean, Karen and Caitlin)
and also Walter E. Corrigan Jr, his wife Alicia Corrigan and daughter Katie from Seward, AK##imported-begin##Karen (Droz) & Sean Corrigan##imported-end##

April 10, 2006 at 12:49 AM