



Harold W. Schaefer

June 4, 1925 - May 9, 2011

Harold "Bud" Schaefer, 85, of Charlotte, MI died Monday, May 9, 2011. Mr. Schaefer was born June 4, 1925 in Riley Township, MI the son of Ernest and Flora (Sparks) Schaefer. Mr. Schaefer was a Supervisor for Consumers Power Company. He served in the Army in World War II. Mr. Schaefer had been a Past Commander and lifetime member of the Charlotte V.F.W. Post 2406 since 1946, a Past member of Charlotte Lodge #120 F.& A.M., a Red Cross Volunteer and was involved in the Eaton Area Senior Center. Mr. Schaefer enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Betty; sons, James (Gloria) Schaefer of Mesick, Gerald "Jerry" (Tracey) Schaefer of Manistee and Thomas (Judy) Schaefer of Jackson; 6 grandchildren; 3 great grandchildren; sister, Thelma Joslin of St. Johns and several nieces and nephews. A Visitation will be Thursday, May 12, 2011 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. just prior to a Celebration of Life Service at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte, MI with Chaplain Charles Krueger officiating. If desired, memorial contributions may be made to the Eaton Community Hospice House. Online condolences may be made at www.prayfuneral.com. Arrangements by Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte, MI.

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Harold W. Schaefer*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - May 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GL

“ *I feel very fortunate to have been in the family for 41 years and to have known him as my dad. He always had a sense of humor and a funny story to tell. I will miss him.*

Gloria - May 13, 2011 at 10:12 PM

CW

“ *There is no greater loss then that of a Parents! May your memories give you strength and comfort you are all in my thoughts and Prayers.*

Cathy Wollpert - May 12, 2011 at 01:56 PM

EF

“ *Sending our sympathy. A memorial has been sent to Eaton Community Hospice. Ethel Flegler & Lorina Sillman*

Ethel Flegler - May 12, 2011 at 12:21 PM

CJ

“ Jerry & Tracey: May peace be with you and your's on your Dad's passing. Carol Sue

Carol Sue (Wellman) Jonckheere - May 12, 2011 at 10:06 AM

SS

“ i will cherish all my memories..... sunday popcorn, sleep overs and day trips, most of all him teaching me a lesson at the card table. the man was a card shark for sure. i will love him always and miss him everyday.

sheri schaefer - May 11, 2011 at 10:55 PM

NR

“ Bud and Betty were the only husband and wife to serve in the capisity of Post Commander and Ladies Auxiliary President in the same year. This must have really been very special.

Nina M Robinson - May 11, 2011 at 10:23 PM

NR

“ My sincere sympathy to the family. Betty you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Hold onto the wonderful memories they will get you through many of the difficult days ahead. We have surely lost many of those that were friends and co workers with consumers energy this year. Take care and let me know if you should need anything.

Nina M Robinson - May 11, 2011 at 10:18 PM

CS

“ We would like to express our sympathy to the Schaefer family for the loss of their loved one. We especially send our love to Cale & Jerry, you are in our hearts & prayers. Carol & Duane

Carol Scofield - May 11, 2011 at 09:46 AM

DA

“ When I first met my Grandpa Schaefer I was 8 years old. His son, Tom, was marrying my mom, Judy, what a great day. I had no idea then the amazing family I was becoming a part of. The Schaefer family took me in & loved me like I had been with the family all my life. Grandpa Schaefer was such an amazing, caring & loving man. He was always so generous to others. I am so blessed to have been a part of his life & will keep so many fond memories with me always in my heart. I love you Grandpa!

Danielle - May 11, 2011 at 08:46 AM

DW

“ When I first met my Grandpa Schaefer I was 8 years old. His son, Tom, was marrying my mom, Judy, what a great day. I had no idea then the amazing family I was becoming apart of. The Schaefer family took me in & loved me like I had been with the family all my life. Grandpa Schaefer was such an amazing, caring & loving man. He was always so generous to others. I am so blessed to have been a part of his life & will keep so many fond memories with me always in my heart.

Danielle Wojtusik - May 11, 2011 at 07:42 AM

“What makes a man? I do not have all the answers to this question but my dad was a man's man and I know what he was made of. This man went to school only until the 8th grade. That's as far as country schools went back in the day. He talked with his father who was a farmer and asked if he could go to the "city" to school. His father told him, "son, we have no way of getting you there." So at the old age of thirteen this man struck out on his own and got a job as a hired hand on a nearby farm. His own mother had died when he was just 12. He worked on the farms until a terrible storm came upon the earth called World War II. Now he became more than just a man he was a soldier. Loaded into the belly of a ship he and his buddies crossed the Atlantic. He entered Europe with the second wave onto the beaches of Normandy. They moved across Europe and in the forests of Belgium while in a foxhole his feet froze solid. He was sent to England to recover and while he was there the Germans mounted a huge offensive, now called the Battle of the Bulge. Once recovered this man rejoined his outfit only to find that he no longer knew any of the men that he had trained with. Most had perished in the battle and new soldiers took their place. He once told me, "freezing my feet saved my life as I see it". He completed his tour and went back home. He worked for a short while at Fisher body and I don't know if it was the inside work or the fact that he spot welded the back of one arm that made him look elsewhere. He found Consumer's Power company and a new wife, Betty. They had three boys and all three grew up to follow in their Dad's footsteps working at Consumer's Power Co. The man was a stern leader but no one doubted his knowledge or his work ethic. He always worked hard both on the job and at home. His examples, instilled the same work ethic in all three of his boys. As time passed he retired and enjoyed traveling with Betty. They went to every state in the USA. He had to stay busy so he had odd jobs from time to time. One day he happened to go visit the farm where he first hired out as a 13 year old boy and he found the same loving couple living there. Once again he asked the same question. "You need any help"? He spent several years working around the old farm and time passed and the old man died and he found himself taking the widow

to her weekly hair appointments and other small chores. He had come full circle. Started his life as a man way too early, lived as a member of the Greatest Generation fighting for the freedom we all enjoy. He worked for 36 years providing for his wife and family and he put his mark on his sons giving them the gift of a home with a father, a mentor, and a friend. There will be many who will miss him, but none will miss him more than those three boys that called him Dad.

Jerry Schaefer - May 10, 2011 at 02:32 PM

TS

“*Pops was very active guy. I never really remember him just sitting around and relaxing. He taught me so many things and I truly cherish all those thoughts. One thing pops always said to Judy and I was to "stop and smell the roses". I think he did a pretty good job of that himself, but not enough to suit mom of course. Dad was pretty frugal. What a great provider though, he kept us fed and housed and I can't remember a summer growing up without a vacation somewhere in Michigan. I spent many times up north deer hunting with pops and he was such gas (literally) to be with. I look back now and I can picture all the little things that made my dad who he was. My daughter came home from Pittsburgh with new great grandson so gpa and gma could see him, it was close to my birthday in March, I am so thankful that happened. I will miss my father, and I will love the memories I have and return to them often. I want to thank the Eaton Community Hospice House, they are truly amazing people, my dad was especially fond of Emily, though there aquintance was breif, dad liked her.*

Thomas Schaefer - May 10, 2011 at 10:15 AM

JC

“*Bud Schaefer was a genuinely kind and good man - he and his family were our neighbors for many years when I was growing up. My heartfelt condolences to Betty, Jim, Jerry, Tom, and their families. God bless you all!*

Jackie Converse - May 09, 2011 at 08:08 PM