



Delbert W. Cleghorn

January 6, 1926 - September 26, 2018

Delbert W. Cleghorn Jr., 92, of Benzonia and most recently, Edwardsburg, MI; died Wednesday morning, September 26, 2018, at Cass County Medical Care Facility, Cassopolis, Michigan. He was born January 6, 1926, to Delbert and Dorothy (Walker) Cleghorn in South Bend, Indiana.

On April 4, 1947, married Joan Kehoe in South Bend, Indiana. She preceded him in death on March 6th, 2010.

Delbert is survived by sons, Larry (Betty) Cleghorn of Leland, N.Carolina; Donald Cleghorn of N. Augusta, S. Carolina, Mark (Brenda) Cleghorn of Rockvale, TN; as well as daughters, Nancy (Larry) Bowman, of Edwardsburg, MI and Gail (John) Rill of Payson, AZ. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren, 3 great great grandchildren; as well as Jim Cole, his “adopted” son of Benzonia, Michigan.

He was preceded in death along with his wife, by his parents, Delbert Sr. and Dorothy (Walker), his sister Edith Tillotson, grandson Matthew Cleghorn and great granddaughter Vanesa Ortiz .

Delbert served his country in the Navy during World War II, receiving the Victory Medal, as well as the American and Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medals. He was employed by Bendix Corporation in South Bend, Indiana, retiring after 31 years as a superintendent in the Brake & Steering Division. Following his retirement, he and his wife moved from the Edwardsburg area to Benzonia, Michigan; where they were both actively involved in the local community.

He was a devoted husband, lovingly caring for his wife through her struggle with Alzheimer’s Disease and when it was no longer possible, he was with her daily at The Maples nursing home, in Frankfort, MI. After her passing he volunteered at The Maples for many years.

Delbert was well known as a wonderful cook and he generously shared his talent by providing delicious treats with family and friends. He has also passed on his recipes and love of cooking with his children, grandchildren and many friends; some of whom are still striving to reach the goal of reproducing his famous peanut brittle. Delbert was an avid gardener, once again sharing his bounty as well as tips for growing produce and many have enjoyed his sauerkraut “parties” and technique for drying corn. He was a skilled

wood worker; making rocking chairs, jewelry boxes and custom furniture for many. He was very proud of his five children and their families. Although his health declined over the summer, he made friends and shared his special humorous sarcasm with many of those who helped care for him.

Visitation for friends and family will be Saturday, September 29th, at 3:00 p.m. with the funeral service beginning at 4 p.m. at First Congregational Church in Benzonia, Michigan. The funeral service will be officiated by Pastor Thomas Maxwell, his grandson by marriage along with Pastor Patty Higgins. The burial service with military honors will be immediately following the funeral service at Benzonia Township Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

The family is being cared for and served by the Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home.

Comments



“ Mark, your coworkers are very sorry to hear about your father. I know this is a trying time, but stay faithful. God will provide in times of need. We are praying for your family.

Chris Brown - September 27, 2018 at 11:59 AM



“ Words can never fully describe the lives my father has touched with his loving kindness over his 92 years. My heart is aching but he wanted to be with Momma and his poor body was so broken, only our dear Lord could "fix" it. He is probably teaching the angels to make peanut brittle by now. I have a hole in my heart but his is new and he's now up there cheering for us to love others and make good choices in living out our lives. Please pass his love along to those who need a kindness as you go throughout your days and weeks ahead. It will honor him in a special way. His loving daughter, Nancy

Nancy Bowman - September 26, 2018 at 02:08 PM



“ I have such cherished memories of this man. He was my neighbor when we moved to Christiana Lake. The Cleghorns showed us what it is to be a neighbor as Jesus taught. His 92 years is a testament to his love of life and kind joyful spirit. I'm thankful for the many life lessons and gardening knowledge he shared with us. Tami Griffis

Tami Griffis - September 27, 2018 at 09:24 AM



“ My family and I are blessed to have had Bud as a friend. We would share stories with him at Stormcloud in Frankfort. He always showed support and compassion to those around him. His smile and sense of humor lifted our hearts. Thank you for sharing your dad and grandpa with all of us. He will always carry a special place in our hearts. Amy S

Amy Somero - September 28, 2018 at 05:56 AM