



Elmer Burton Poertner

March 16, 1931 - March 27, 2017

TRAVERSE CITY - Elmer Burton Poertner, 86, of Traverse City, passed away on March 27, 2016 at Munson Medical Center. Elmer was born on March 16, 1931 in Lake Leelanau, to the late Walter and Bertha (Brow) Poertner.

He was raised on a farm and as a young man enlisted and honorably serviced his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps.

Elmer married the love of his life, Rosabelle May Popa on February 11, 1956 and raised their 5 children together. He was employed as a service manager for Montgomery Wards and as a mechanic for Ken's Pickup Service. Elmer enjoyed word searches, listening to Polka and country music and going to the casino, playing on his tablet and playing card games with his granddaughter Sofie. Elmer was a member of the Eagles FOE 383 and American Military League.

He is survived by his wife, Rosie and their 5 children, E. Suzann Coombe, Cheryl (Robert Redli) Traylor, Timothy (Susan) Poertner, Michelle (Joe Bauer) Poertner, Karrylyn "Karry" (Dale) Bigelow; son in-law, Douglas Coombe. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren: Tara (Daniel Thomas) Traylor, Jason Coombe, Shaun (Samantha Glazier) Traylor, Corey Coombe, Kathleen (James) Poertner-Geraghty, Ryan (Ami) Coombe, Keith Poertner, Ashley Poertner, Justin Gore, Anna Poertner, Hannah Bigelow, Wyatt Bigelow, and Sofie Bigelow and 9 Great Grandchildren; Alexis Golder-Traylor, Kieran Geraghty, Holden Coombe, Jaxsyn Thomas, Trenton Traylor, Griffin Coombe, Rhett Dowling, Camron Traylor and soon to arrive Raelynn Traylor. Also surviving are his half-brother, Walter (Patricia) Poertner and 2 step sisters: Evelyn and Rosemary Sheets; sister in-law, Gudrun Poertner and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, 2 brothers and sister in-laws; Willard (Kay) Poertner, Earl (Alice George) Poertner, and 2 sisters and a brother in-law; Marilda Sheffer and Helen (Steve) Stachnik and one half brother, Gary Poertner and great grandson, Baby Austin Ryan Coombe.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at 11 a.m. at Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, with a visitation held one hour prior. Services will be officiated by Fr. Kenneth Stachnik and military honors will be performed under the auspices of the Cherryland VFW Post #2780 and the American Legion Post #35.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) <http://www.jdrf.org/donate/> or Father Fred Foundation 826 Hastings St. Traverse City, MI. 49686.

Share your thoughts and memories with Elmer's family by way of his online guestbook at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>

The family is being cared for by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Cemetery

Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens
3575 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI, 49684

Events

APR 1 Visitation 10:00AM - 11:00AM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

APR 1 Funeral Service 11:00AM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

Comments



“ Honestly, I don't know what my dad would have done if it was not for Elmer working at Ken's Pickup Service. He was a stitch to be around and always had time for a joke, which ended with a belly laugh! He was always there for my dad and was the most kindhearted and honest man. Thank you Rosie for sharing him with us! My condolences and prayers to you and your family. God bless.

Kathryn (Knudsen) Mousseau

Kathryn Mousseau - March 31, 2017 at 04:35 PM



“ I remember the first time that I met Elmer Poertner. I was a single mother of two young daughters and like they say I didn't have two pennies to rub together. was working at the college with Michelle who was a tutor and then secretary (looong time ago now), in the tutoring office. My car was making funny noises and Michelle said, "We'll drive out to Ken's and my dad will look at it." I was unsure, but broke and in need. What a blessing! Elmer not only looked at it and told me the problem, but he fixed it. I fell head over heels with him! He was one of the kindest, gentlest, and funniest guys I ever meet. He and Rosie have always let me and my kids be "family." I pay it forward whenever I can because they were such good examples of Christian human beings. I am truly blessed by and because of Elmer and his family. Kristin Leffew-Smeltzer

KRISTIN SMELTZER - March 31, 2017 at 10:02 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. Even so I have never met you personally, Gary always spoke very fond of his family!! May God heal your sorrow and comfort you!!
Gudrun Poertner, Hinesville, GA



Gudrun poertner - March 30, 2017 at 02:49 PM



“ Sending prayers for healing, so sorry for your loss. He was a very nice man.

Cheryl, Jerry Schwind,& Charlotte Neihardt.

Cheryl Schwind - March 30, 2017 at 01:06 PM



“ Having lost my father early in life, Elmer was my father figure for many years. He will surely be missed.

doug coombe - March 30, 2017 at 08:25 AM



“ I am so very sorry for your loss. Elmer has always been such a kind man to my family and I. May he rest in peace. With much love, Carol Robinson and Family

Carol Robinson - March 30, 2017 at 08:21 AM



“ Ashley Poertner and family, I am sorry for your loss. My condolences to the family.
Bob Kallatsa

Bob Kallatsa - March 29, 2017 at 07:30 PM