



## Frank Ray Hall

April 13, 1921 - June 10, 2018

Frank Ray Hall, 97, died June 10, 2018 at Southridge Assisted Living.

Frank was born on April 13, 1921 on a little farm on East Long Lake Road next to Howard School which is no longer there.

He grew up in the Depression Days of 1929-1939. His family moved to Traverse City in 1930 after his folks lost the farm. He had two paper routes while attending Traverse City High School and graduated with the class of 1939. He then went to work at John C. Morgan Canning Company after graduation. In November 1941, he joined the Army Air Corps just before World War II started. He was a turret gunner on a bomber during the Normandy Invasion. He was honorably discharged in 1945 after earning the WWII Victory Medal, a bronze star and a silver star.

In 1945, he returned home to Traverse City and married his sweetheart, Esther Marie Brakel on June 29, 1946. Together they built their home on M37 just south of Chums Corners. Here they raised their children; Gary, Nancy, David and Kathleen. A son Jeffery Ray died in infancy.

After working for 30 years at the Traverse City State Hospital, he retired at the age of 57. In 1975, Frank and Esther moved to Brakel Point Drive on Silver Lake. He was not one to sit idle, so he continued his employment at Gordie Frasier until the age of 62.

In his free time he loved to go fishing with his Brother-in-law Erwin. He taught all of his family how to fish and hunt. He also used to love taking his family cherry picking, much to their dismay, but now looking back, wouldn't trade those memories for anything. In later years, he loved to take Sunday drives all around the Grand Traverse Region.

Frank was a kind and lovable man. He was always surrounded by kids and was well respected by all. He loved to cheer on his grand kids and great grandkids at their sporting events. He also liked to help his kids with any work projects that they had going on.

Frank was grateful that his children checked in on him daily. He moved to Southridge Assisted Living in 2013. He wanted everyone to know that at age 97, he lived a full life and his bags were packed and ready for that long trip up yonder.

Frank was preceded in death by his beloved Esther in 2012 after 65 years of marriage. He was also preceded in death by his grandson Ryan Scott Besaw, his parents Ray and Emma Hall, his sister Lillian and all of his brothers; Harold, Harry, Charles, William, Robert and Richard.

Frank will be deeply missed by his family members that survive; children Gary (Maggie) Hall of Grawn, Nancy (Clem) Perron of Canaan, New Hampshire, David (Susan) Hall of Rock, and Kathleen (Roger) Reed of Interlochen; grandchildren Wendy (Tim) Webb, Kevin (Tami) Hall, Pamela Parsons, Susan Perron, John Paul Perron, Andy (Amanda) Reed and Jessie (Jason) Sperber; 12 great grandchildren Austin, Jordan, Madison, Haven, Dawson, Dylan, Charlie, Hannah, Gretta, Naomi, Emily and Grace; and sisters-in-law Joanne Hall, Jamie Hall, Marita Bellaw, Jean Brakel and Verna Hall and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, June 17, 2018 from 6 to 8 pm at the Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home. A prayer service will begin at 7:30 pm.

The funeral service celebrating Frank's life will be held on Monday, June 18, 2018 at 11:00 am at Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home, with visitation beginning one hour prior.

Graveside services will follow at Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens where he will receive full military honors from the VFW Cherryland Post #2780 and the United States Army. A luncheon will follow at the VFW hall.

Memorial contributions in memory of Frank may be directed to the Salvation Army or to the Father Fred Foundation.

A special thank you to Heartland Hospice and Southridge Assisted Living.

Please visit <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com> to share your memories with the family.

Just a Common Soldier  
(A Soldier Died Today)  
By A. Lawrence Vaincourt

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,  
And he sat around the Legion, telling stories of the past.  
Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done,  
In his exploits with his buddies; they were heroes, every one.  
And tho' sometimes, to his neighbors, his tales became a joke,  
All his Legion buddies listened, for they knew whereof he spoke.  
But we'll hear his tales no longer for old Bill has passed away,  
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today.  
He will not be mourned by many, just his children and his wife,  
For he lived an ordinary and quite uneventful life.  
Held a job and raised a family, quietly going his own way,  
And the world won't note his passing, though a soldier died today.  
When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,  
While thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great.  
Papers tell their whole life stories, from the time that they were young,  
But the passing of a soldier goes unnoticed and unsung.  
Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land  
A guy who breaks his promises and cons his fellow man?  
Or the ordinary fellow who, in times of war and strife,  
Goes off to serve his Country and offers up his life?  
A politician's stipend and the style in which he lives  
Are sometimes disproportionate to the service that he gives.  
While the ordinary soldier, who offered up his all,  
Is paid off with a medal and perhaps, a pension small.  
It's so easy to forget them for it was so long ago,  
That the old Bills of our Country went to battle, but we know  
It was not the politicians, with their compromise and ploys,  
Who won for us the freedom that our Country now enjoys.  
Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand,  
Would you want a politician with his ever-shifting stand?  
Or would you prefer a soldier, who has sworn to defend  
His home, his kin and Country and would fight until the end?  
He was just a common soldier and his ranks are growing thin,  
But his presence should remind us we may need his like again.  
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part  
Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.  
If we cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise,  
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.  
Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper that would say,

Our Country is in mourning, for a soldier died today.

# Cemetery

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## Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens

3575 Veterans Drive

Traverse City, MI, 49684

# Events

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**JUN 17 Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM  
Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**JUN 17 Prayer Service** 07:30PM  
Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**JUN 18 Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM  
Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**JUN 18 Funeral Service** 11:00AM  
Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

# Comments

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“ I loved Frank with all my heart I took care of him at Southridge he was my favorite. Every night getting him ready for bed and seeing that smile and making him laugh was a treasure I will always hold close to my heart. I was so sad when I went to visit and he didn't remember me very well. I love you Frank and I know your up there looking down on us all and taking care of us in our hearts. To Kathy you are an amazing women and I love you too for letting Dee and I givehim the ok to just let go. Love to you all who knew and loved him. Sweet dreams Frank.

**Erin Curtis** - June 19, 2018 at 05:54 PM

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“ Dad, you will be sadly missed by both of us & never be forgotten. You & Mom were a great father & mother-in-law to me & a great inspiration to us both. I will miss having our cups of cappuccino together. We will never forget the many times we shared together. Love always, Gary & Maggie

**Maggie Hall** - June 17, 2018 at 03:12 PM

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“ Dear Hall Family

We send our most sincere and deepest condolences on your loss of dear Frank. The obit and comments in this Tribute attest to what a kind, accomplished, and wonderful man and father he was! We were truly privileged to have him with us at Southridge for five years. (Thank you for mentioning your gratitude in the obit -- truly means so much to all his caregivers and to us.) We also loved that you mentioned the cherry picking days (Youker orchard? Me too!), especially since our other business besides adult care is the cherry industry, with orchards and processing plants.

Frank always seemed upbeat and positive whenever we chatted with him. His laughter and chuckle was with him even in his last days ... I (Judy) visited him a few days before his passing and expressed my love and gratitude that he chose to live in our "home" for so many years, and that we were praying for him and his family. As I hugged him, he briefly opened his eyes and chuckled. It truly warmed my heart.

I have fond memories of growing up near the Hall family, sharing some contacts over many years through school and 4-H activities. His legacy of goodness and love will live on in all of you. We send our heartfelt thoughts and prayers for Frank and for his family.

May he rest in peace, rejoined with your mother in God's loving embrace.

Fondly,  
Judy, Glenn and Ben LaCross  
Southridge Assisted Living

**Judy LaCross** - June 17, 2018 at 12:31 PM

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“ Grampa- Thanks for saving my butt the summer I came out to MI and got my first job as a barista slinging coffee from cart at Meijers. During one of my shifts the slush making machine exploded leading a trail of espresso flavored slush right out the store's automatic doors. I was 14 at the time and being left to fend for myself that day at work I started sobbing out of sheer embarrassment. Not know what to do, I called you. You came to my rescue, we got ice-cream, and you restored both my confidence and my smile.

While we both agreed it was a terrible job, you convinced me that it was, nonetheless, still a job. I ended up finishing up the summer there with a stellar recommendation. Now that I've gone into nursing I realize that it's not worth crying over frozen espresso even if it exploded all over the entrance way of a major grocery chain. I've also learned that there are far worse things that can spill on the floor, espresso not even being close to the top of my list.

I'm sure you and grandma are laughing up there right now.

You left us with so many great memories and you will be greatly missed

- Susie

**Susan Perron** - June 17, 2018 at 04:36 AM

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“ Dad, you taught me to never give up despite some challenges that came my way. You taught us that cherry picking is definitely an honorable job. It also kept us out of trouble!

And like Bob Hope said, “Thank you for the memories!”

I'm going to miss our daily phone calls, but am so thankful that for nineteen years I have been able to speak with you because of the miraculous scientific research of the Cochlear Implant.

May you have glorious fishing trips and catch that big one that got away!

Proud to be your daughter. Love you Pa.

Nan



**Nancy Perron** - June 15, 2018 at 06:46 PM

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“ One of my Dad's favorite expressions was "jack of all trades, master of none" as he referred to himself. I could agree to the first part, but the last part...not so much. When it came to teaching us kids the "lessons of life" that we could use as we traveled the "winding road of life", he was a master from the beginning to the end. Words such as honest, helpful, respectful, appreciative, hard working, "earn your keep", caring for others, and the BIGGY...DO THE BEST YOU CAN NO MATTER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCE YOU'RE IN. The last one being advice that helped propel many of my family and friends to places and positions in life that took that extra initiative, drive, enthusiasm, and education to achieve goals we may not have pursued.

Aside from all of life's teachings and guidance, Dad didn't ignore another important and rewarding aspect of life...FUN. Camping (in the U.P. before the Bridge!), hunting, FISHING, family picnics large and small, attendance at family, relatives and friends parties, sporting events, and recognition dinners. Dad always promoted celebrations thru the years.

As our family was sorting through the stacks of family picture albums Dad and Mom had amassed through the years in preparation for display at his funeral, it came to our attention his frequent involvement with many groups of children. He loved kids. He shared stories and tales of his younger years and kids young and old gravitated to his kind and cheerful personality.

Through his later years he remained helpful to all of us and shared many stories of his past that most of us had never heard before. He loved going on drives and this lent well for him to relax and share. His younger years, military experience and life and times in the Grand Traverse area were all relived in his memory. Places he and Mom traveled in later life always brought a smile and twinkle in his eye.

Born in April, 1921 and passing this month, June, 2018 at the age of 97, Dad was able to share stories and laughter right to the end. What I will miss the most are my daily calls to him; sometimes twice a day, to sing songs, tell stories, laugh about past family events as well as current local and nations stories.

His humor never failed him and his love for all his family and friends was always apparent as he traveled toward the end of his life. My last comment to Dad, just after he received the Last Rights was..."Mom's waiting to see you so it's best not to keep her waiting, and your favorite fishing buddy, Uncle Erwin has a boat waiting for your next fishing trip; but remember...in Heaven it's CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY!

I love you "Father Devine".....Dave.....

**Dave Hall** - June 15, 2018 at 06:11 PM

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“ I miss Frank telling all the stories of past fishing trips with my mom and dad. Frank and Keith were friends for more than 60 years. Frank was a great friend of my dad. He will be missed by all the Jones-es.

**Charlene Jones** - June 13, 2018 at 09:26 PM

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“ I miss you Dad, & rides out to the Old Mission Lighthouse will never be the same without you as my copilot. Always in my heart. With all my love and gratitude, Kathy

**Kathy reed** - June 13, 2018 at 06:22 PM



“ Kathy....thoughts and prayers to you and your family! I never met your Dad but the Elliott family ALWAYS had good stories about your family! Hugs and Sheryl and Joe Elliott

**Sheryl** - June 13, 2018 at 09:48 PM



“ Your dad was a wonderful man. He always had something funny to say or telling a great story. I'm so so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. He is now hanging out with ms shirley, ms Pauline and Ms Dorothy. And your momma. So he is in good hands. I would love to talk to you Kathy. When you feel up to it give me a call hun. 231-715-0062.

**Amanda** - June 14, 2018 at 02:30 PM



“ Dear Kathy and family, I am sending my sincere sympathy to you. It is so hard to lose a parent but he will always be with you. Hold tight to the wonderful memories! Jackie Hall (I lived at the point on Brakel Point)

**Jackie Hall** - June 16, 2018 at 02:46 PM

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“ You were such a fantastic man and someone I enjoyed taking care. I would say now everyone watch out we're driving crazy, and he would say “ Do not get a speeding ticket” wheeling him in his wheelchair... we laughter!!! Loved his oatmeal, brown sugar, and creamer!! You truly are missed by SO many. You will always be in my heart, and you are now an handsome angel above. You truly went to heaven!!! Prayers to your beautiful family, and you!? “ Heaven awaits a beautiful person inside, and out”

Kimberly ( past caregiver)

**Kimberly McClellan** - June 12, 2018 at 02:35 PM



“ Hall family the day i met frank i was so bless he was a amazing man always so kind and so caring he loved he wife and family so very much i spent so many evening just talking and sharing life with he family and friends and always fishing i will never forget him as i go on he will live with me forever hope you are catching that one that got away frank shelly

**Michelle** - June 20, 2018 at 02:38 AM