



George W. Powell

December 21, 1915 - July 8, 2015

George W. Powell, 99, of Traverse City, passed away Wednesday, July 8, 2015 at Traverse Victorian Assisted Living, with his loving family at his side.

George was born on December 21, 1915 in Hillview, IL to the late George R. and Addie (Hunnicut) Powell, one of 13 children. He married the late Lillian G. Knapp on June 25, 1949 in Reed City, MI. Together they lovingly raised two daughters, Shelly and Paula.

He honorably served our country in World War II, in the United States Navy, stationed in the South Pacific. George and his six brothers all served in WWII at the same time. They were recently featured twice in the Chicago Tribune (chicago.tribune.com) in articles detailing their experiences in the war, and of the Illinois legislature's passing of a bill to rename part of highway route 67 to the "Powell Brothers' Memorial Highway."

George worked many dedicated years as District Supervisor for Northern Michigan, for the Michigan State Liquor Control Commission, retiring in 1978. He moved to Traverse City in 1946 where he enjoyed spending time outdoors, especially boating with his family, and as an avid fisherman. He and Lillian enjoyed spending winters in Florida for over 20 years. George was an awesome fisherman and caught many Snook from the bridge in Matlacha, FL. He was also an expert in catching Whitefish on both East and West Bays in Traverse City. George was a proud member of the Elks for 67 years, and was one of the original members of the Presbyterian Church in Traverse City.

George was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was such an inspiration and set an excellent example for his daughters, sons-in-law, and grandchildren. A true gentleman in every way, everyone who met him was immediately his friend, as people were attracted to his kind, generous, and sincere personality. One friend's description of him was, "he was a man's man, had a handshake like a vise, and a heart of gold." Although small in stature, he carried a powerful persona as was necessary in his line of work. He taught his sons-in-law and grandsons proper etiquette by example. George took pride in being a meticulous dresser and maintained a garage as clean as

many living rooms. He was able to drive his car until the age of 97. An avid Tiger fan, George was rarely seen without his ball cap but was quick to criticize their playing abilities if they didn't match up to his standards. Until the last year, he walked at a pace that few could maintain and could often be found on top of his ladder cleaning out gutters or painting trim.

He had a mutual love and respect for all his caregivers at the Pavilions Rehab and Traverse Victorian Assisted Living. The family would like to extend a special thank-you to Traverse Victorian Assisted Living and Pavilions Rehab for their loving and compassionate care. Also a sincere thank-you to Dr. James Milliken, Dr. Kevin Clayton, Northwest Michigan Long Term Care Specialists, Dr. Stanley Smyka, Dr. Scott Sneed, Gail Cinniger and Patti Baker.

He is survived by his 2 daughters, Shelly (Paul) Appold , and Paula (Vince) Prusick all of Traverse City; five grandchildren, Katie (Jon) Venuti of Wesley Chapel, FL; Angie Appold of Austin, TX; Ashley (Jon) Insana of Traverse City; Vince (Kate) Prusick of Lexington, KY; and Parker Prusick of Traverse City; three great-grandsons, Graiden Insana and Mason Insana of Traverse City; and Luke Venuti of Wesley Chapel, FL. One sister-in-law, Betty Powell of California survives, as well as well as many other family members and friends.

George was preceded in death by his parents, wife, Lillian of 62 dedicated years, 10 brothers; Adrian, Arthur, Bud, Charles, Earl, Floyd, Fred, John, Everett, Max, and 2 sisters; Sophia (Fred) Sheffield and Ruth (Bill) Murgatroyd.

A memorial service for George will be held at the Presbyterian Church, 701 Westminster Rd., Traverse City, MI, on Saturday, August 8 at 1:00 p.m., with visitation one hour prior to the service. The Rev. Jose Lopez will officiate. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Father Fred Foundation, 826 Hastings St., Traverse City, MI 49686 or to the Church.

Please share memories of George with his family by way of his online guest book at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

The family is being served by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 305 Sixth Street, Traverse, MI 49684.

Tribute Wall

RJ

“ 54 files added to the album *George W. Powell*



Reynolds Jonkhoff - August 08, 2015 at 08:25 AM

BF

“ *George was the best of neighbors for over 23 years. Just one sweetheart of a guy, who was meticulous with his yard and garage. My son loved to swap fishing stories with him and we enjoyed fish he caught in the bays. My memories are nothing but good ones of this fine man. A ready smile and a kind heart, he was a man of integrity. I am blessed to have known him. Brenda Falk*

Brenda Falk - July 22, 2015 at 07:40 PM

BD

“ *I lived across the street from George for 12 years and enjoyed knowing him. He was in phenomenal shape, cutting his grass and even snow blowing until just a few years ago. He got to know me and my kids and was a true gentleman, kind and sincere as the obituary describes. I'll miss his friendly wave every time I drive up the street.*

Bill Dorrier - July 20, 2015 at 11:42 AM

BS

“ I have quite a bit of memories from these past 3 years when I have gotten know George, and they make me giggle when I think of them. He had a soft affirmation about him, and you couldn't really disagree with the man. Here is one of my favorite memories...My husband, Dan and I, joined George for Dinner one evening at the Elks Lodge. Paula, earlier that evening had called and said that when we went to dinner that evening, George couldn't have any "drinks" for dinner, due a temporary set back. (We never let George know we communicated about such things), so the waitress tended to our table and asked what we would like to have to drink...and George being the gentleman he was, looked around to me, then to Dan, so we would do the ordering first. Dan ordered a diet coke, and a water. George looked at us very strange and said "well, aren't you gonna have a drink???" Then looked at the waitress and ordered his Bombay Saffire Martini. Dan proceeded to tell him that one time he had stitches (like George had at the time) and the doctor told him that he shouldn't have anything to drink, so it didn't thin out his blood. (Which was a fib)...and George said "you know what Dan, you are probably right, I shouldn't have a drink" turned at the waitress and said "I'll have a Miller Lite". Dan and I looked at each other, laughed... shook our heads....and said "make that 3." Love that man. He will be so missed.

Becky Schrader - July 19, 2015 at 01:03 AM

AN

“ Dear Paula and Family

Both Russ and I send our love and prayers to all of you.

Love, Ann and Russ McNamara (Harrison) St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Ann & Russ Mc Namara - July 16, 2015 at 02:49 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - July 15, 2015 at 03:28 PM

TS

“ Our Friend George, will be miss by the Oleson Coffee Group. His Smile and his love for the Detroit Tigers. The many stories he shared with us over a cup of coffee. Myself , my life is better for knowing George and I'll miss him, Rest in Peace my GOOD friend. Tom Sheffer

Tom Sheffer - July 12, 2015 at 12:34 PM

GC

“ I will miss visiting George. He always was so kind. I enjoyed working with Lillian & George. They made me feel like family. So grateful to be in their lives. The family was the most supportive, loving, & giving of any family I have worked with. God bless. My prayers are with you all.



Gail Cinninger - July 11, 2015 at 11:14 PM