



George Thomas Swogger

July 9, 1935 - July 26, 2015

TRAVERSE CITY – George Thomas Swogger, 80, of Traverse City, died unexpectedly of natural causes at his home on Sunday, July 26, 2015.

George was born in Grand Rapids on Tuesday, July 9, 1935, the son of Lloyd Clyde and Harriett Althea (Randall) Swogger. Following his graduation from Shepherd High School in 1953, George served our country as a member of the U. S. Navy, aboard the USS Lexington. On Saturday, May 21, 1960, George married the love of his life, the former Joanne Margaret Judge at St. Leo's Catholic Church in Winn. Together, they celebrated 55 years of marriage.

George began his work career as a dairy farmer in Shepherd. Then he entered into business with his brother, operating Swogger Standard Service in Shepherd. In 1964, he and Joanne moved to Traverse City. At that time they opened Swogger Standard Station at the corner of Front and Park Street. George operated the popular Swogger Standard Station from 1964 until 1976, then known as Swogger Amoco Station. In 1977, George established Swogger Tire Service, which he operated for more than 20 years. He then enjoyed part time work during his retirement.

George loved to hunt, especially pheasant and deer, enjoyed golfing, socializing with his "Reeberom" friends, and travelling.

However, all of George's career accomplishments and hobbies, as summarized above, took a very distance backseat to the greatest joy in life; his family. His number one priority always was being in the company of Joanne, his children, his grandchildren, and his extended family of sisters- and brothers-in-law and their children.

He is survived by his wife Joanne; his children, Pat (Sherry) Swogger, Amy Swogger and Michael (Sharon) Swogger, all of Traverse City, Audrey (Steve) Beyer of Macomb; his grandchildren, Bryan Reagan, Nicholas and Steven Swogger, Hunter and Bailey Swogger, and Margaret and Elizabeth Beyer. Also surviving is a sister Mary (Richard) Grace of

Alma, nieces and nephews and many loving relatives and friends. George was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Arthur.

Visitation for George will take place from 5 until 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 29 at The Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. The funeral service will take place at 11 a.m. Thursday, July 30 at Christ the King Catholic Church with Father Raymond Cotter officiating.

The family asks that George be remembered through memorial contributions for the benefit of Bryan Reagan (George's grandson) C/O Michael Swogger, 10691 E. Carter Road, Suite 103, Traverse City, MI 49684 (checks should be made payable to: FBO Bryan Reagan) or to the Area Agency on Aging, Northwestern Michigan, 1609 Park Drive, Traverse City, MI 49686.

Please share your memories of George as well as thoughts for the family by visiting George's online guest book/tribute page at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>.

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

Events

JUL **Visitation** 05:00PM - 08:00PM

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

JUL **Funeral Service** 11:00AM

30

Christ the King Catholic Church
3801 Shore Road, Williamsburg, MI, US, 49690

Comments



“ I thought I had sent this message, but it didn't seem to go through. So, I'd like to say to George's family how sorry I am that you've lost him. He is my cousin, and I didn't know him very well. Reading all the lovely things about him, I'm sorry I didn't get to know him better. I look at his photo and he has the same lovely smile I remember his mother, my aunt, having. I never remember her without a smile, and there it is, on George! My only memory of he and Joanne was at a Randal family reunion or party. I was just a kid. I remember thinking, "What a handsome couple." To his family, I offer my sincere condolences. The world is less bright without that smile! Kitty Carroll

Kitty Carroll - August 04, 2015 at 02:24 PM



“ Joanne, please accept our sympathies on George's passing. We have been reminiscing over our shared experiences, our common parenting times, George's teachable moments, and in general our "good times" together. May you find strength to carry on in faith. Love, Terry and Lynne McHoskey

Terry and Lynne McHoskey - July 31, 2015 at 08:13 AM



“ Joann and family- didn't know George personally but know you have had a happy life with him all these years- my sympathy to you and yours. Paulette Andres Green.

Paulette - July 29, 2015 at 02:51 PM



“ Paul Hitchens lit a candle in memory of George Thomas Swogger



paul hitchens - July 29, 2015 at 06:05 AM



“ I sure have a lot of memories of George from our school years and a few years after. Going pheasant hunting every chance we got during season. Driving around to all the neighbors barns and flushing out pigeons to shoot on Sunday afternoons (we did that a lot) and racing around in those Studebaker cars. It's a miracle we weren't killed. I remember one time in George's 50 Studebaker that he drove through the main North South road of Shepherd late at night with the gas pedal right on the floor. Crazy kids are apt to do anything and we were always racing other people. I just wish he had stayed in the area so we could have shared getting old together.

Gale Willoughby

Gale Willoughby - July 28, 2015 at 07:50 PM



“ Gale it was so good to hear from you , George talked about you often!! Keep the good memories.

audrey - July 28, 2015 at 08:48 PM



“ Loved having George work with us while catering - always a good laugh!! George was such a loving and caring person!! His family will definitely miss his presence, but will forever have wonderful memories to share with each other! Love you very much Swogger family!!

Mary Harwood-Coughlin - July 28, 2015 at 07:27 PM



“ Joanne, Mike and family,

So sorry to hear of your loss. I didn't know George, but knowing you Joanne and Mike, he must have been a wonderful man. May God be with you during this sad time.

Cindy Ingalls

Cindy Ingalls - July 28, 2015 at 11:45 AM



“ We love the Swogger family so much! George was just an awesome person. I loved when he would stop by at the AAANM office to meet his sweetie and get his "honey-do" list! He loved his Joanne so very much! God be with you, Joanne, and all of the Swogger/Judge family throughout the difficult time. George left a beautiful legacy, for sure! Love you...Rachel <3

Rachel 'Watkins' Campbell - July 28, 2015 at 11:04 AM



“ Audrey and family- We are saddened by your loss. May you draw strength in the coming days with all the love from family and friends.

Love your friends,
The Cusumano Family

Julianne and Frank Cusumano, Jr. - July 27, 2015 at 08:50 PM



“ I remember Mr. Swogger as a wonderful neighbor who was very kind to me after my family experienced a devastating house fire. I always thought that he was a great dad and a very sweet man. So very sorry to the entire Swogger family for your loss. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Cheri Krizek-Yost

Cheri Krizek-Yost - July 27, 2015 at 07:59 PM



“ Cheri!
You made my whole family cry! What a beautiful memory.

audrey - July 28, 2015 at 09:40 PM