



## Jennings "Jay" Bright

October 12, 1926 - November 8, 2019

Jennings "Jay" Bright, 93, of Traverse City passed away at the Jubilee House in Clarksville, TN. Jay was born on October 12, 1926 in Maple City, MI to the late Walter and Goldie (Zigler) Bright. He married the love of his life, Catherine Gokey on July 22, 1950 in Maple City. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Jay and Catherine owned and operated the Shorelane Motel in Acme. Jay had been employed with Parsons Manufacturing, where he worked with fiberglass making helicopter blades. His work with fiberglass later led him to work with Murray's Boats and Motors, retiring in 1995 after over 30 years of service. He lived in the Traverse City area his whole life, but he loved spending the winters in Largo and Clearwater, FL. He enjoyed deer hunting, snowmobiling and was a Detroit Tigers Fan. Jay was proud of the fact that he was able to do the "Honor Flight", with his daughter-in-law, Peggy.

Jay is survived by his wife of 69 years, Catherine, a son and two daughters; Allen (Peggy) Bright, Jacklyn (Craig) Fisher and Pamela (Steve) Schusler. Also surviving are grandchildren; Ryan, Jake, Justin, Amber, Shawn, Shannon and Natasha and 12 great-grandchildren. Jay also leaves four sisters; Wanda (Kenneth) Stormer, Pauline (Donald) Stormer, Bertha Waassnaar and Leah (Bobby) Erickson as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by three brothers; Carl Bright, Edward Bright and Wayne Bright.

Friends are welcome to visit with Jay's family from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, 305 Sixth St., Traverse City, MI 49684.

A funeral service honoring Jay, will take place at 11:00 a.m., with visitation one-hour prior, on Thursday, November 14, 2019 at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. Pastor Don Meiner will officiate.

Military Honors will be conducted under the auspices of the U.S. Navy, Cherryland V.F.W. Post 2780 and American Legion Post 35.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with Jay's family at his tribute page at [www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com](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

# Comments

---



“ My sister, Shawn & I had the opportunity to live with Uncle Jay & Aunt Catherine for 3 summers working at the Motel. We remember his red convertible VW bug. Uncle Jay would let us drive it around whenever we wanted. Drove it to the drive-in theater put our cousin behind the back seat with the top pulled down to sneak her in. When we told Uncle Jay, he laughed. I think in his eyes we could do no wrong. Also ran out of gas one night. Called our dad that time....that's a whole different story. Of course our dad said we had to tell Uncle Jay. Remember I said earlier we could do no wrong in Uncle Jay's eyes? I think his response was, "That gauge doesn't work right, glad you made it home". He was always so kind, never a cross word spoken. When my sister, Shawn sold her 1st car, Uncle Jay bought it with the money in his front pocket. He told her whatever was in the pocket is how much he'd pay. Now I'm not too sure that was the best deal for Shawn, but he sure did laugh when she agreed! Uncle Jay was also the God parent to my youngest daughter, Jennifer. Thank you Uncle Jay for the great memories. We'll be seeing you someday, in Heaven. Shawn (Erickson) Weber & Sherry (Erickson) Buckler

Sherry Buckler & Shawn Weber - November 13, 2019 at 03:21 AM

---



“ So sorry for your loss.  
Cindy (Thompson) Baker

Cindy T Baker - November 12, 2019 at 09:00 AM

---



“ Uncle Jay you will be missed.  
Sorry for your Loss Aunt Catherine, Allen, Jackie and Pam.  
The Dean Lillie Family

Lisa Lillie - November 11, 2019 at 04:49 PM

---



“ Jay was a wonderful man. I had the pleasure of being his friend and caregiver for 5 years. He will be greatly missed by all. My thoughts and prayers are with Allen , Jackie and Pam. GOD bless the whole family at this time

Lori Gary

Lori Gary - November 11, 2019 at 04:20 PM