



## Jerry A. Polach

March 26, 1917 - September 2, 2013

Jerry Adam Polach, 96, of Traverse City and formerly of Hoxeyville and Chicago, passed away peacefully on September 2, 2013 at Munson Medical Center. Jerry's long life was enriched by deep family attachments, most particularly to his beloved wife Ella, who passed away one year ago during their 65th year of marriage, and also to their daughters Linda and Patricia, with whom he shared a strong bond, many good times and his last week of life.

Jerry served as a tank gunner in the First Armored Division of the U.S. Army during World War II. He was captured with his entire unit at Kasserine Pass in Tunisia on February 14, 1943, during the Allies' North Africa campaign. With other prisoners of war, he suffered great privation and hardship during 26 months in captivity, which had lasting effects on his health. After the war, he was active in the American Legion for many years and served as a post commander in Chicago. He was a long-time supporter of Disabled American Veterans for its work on behalf of disabled veterans, and he had great respect and appreciation for the professionals and staff of the Veterans Administration, who helped so many veterans including him.

Jerry valued his Catholic faith and traditions, and was active for many years as a lector in St. Adrian parish on the southwest side of Chicago. He also placed a high value on hard work, and served for 35 years on the early shift as a timekeeper in the U.S. Post Office, while simultaneously holding other positions including many years as a bank guard. One of his highest expressions of praise was to say that someone was a hard worker.

Jerry greatly enjoyed professional baseball, football, basketball and hockey. His allegiance was primarily to the Chicago White Sox, Bears, Bulls and Blackhawks. But during his final years as a Michigander, he made room for the Tigers and the Lions.

Jerry was a warm and generous man who was quick to offer help to others in need. He had a quick wit and a smile that lit up the room. He enjoyed many lifelong friendships from his work and community life in Chicago, and he and Ella made valued new friends at

Cedar Creek Senior Apartments over the last ten years. Above all, he valued family; especially his wife Ella, his daughters Linda and Patricia, his sons-in-law James Boyd and Stephen Coye, and his grandchildren Alyssa, Gavin, Olivia and Zoe.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, September 6, 2013 at 11:00 am at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Military honors will be provided by Cherryland VFW Post #2780. Interment will follow at 3:30pm at Bankers Cemetery in Hoxeyville. Memorial contributions in memory of Jerry may be directed to the Disabled American Veterans.

Please visit [www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com](http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com) to share your thoughts and memories with the family.

# Events

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**SEP**   **Funeral Mass**                      11:00AM  
**6**

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Immaculate Conception Catholic Church  
308 Cedar Street, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

# Comments

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“ Mom (Donna Mcfadden) said Uncle Jerry was her true hero. He will be missed!!!  
Tim Matykiewicz

**Tim Matykiewicz** - September 11, 2013 at 03:32 PM

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“ Although I'd only known Jerry for a year or so, he felt like a longtime friend and was one of my favorite Meals on Wheels customers. Jerry would always be welcoming and appreciative and would often share stories with us (me and Sam, my summer vacation teen assistant) regarding his war experiences, his beloved wife Ella and other other family members, of whom he was obviously proud. Our sincere condolences to his family.  
Kathy Vezina

**Kathy Vezina** - September 06, 2013 at 10:25 AM

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“ We miss your smiles already Grandpa Jerry. We know you and Grandma Ella are together and sending us love. To our family, we're holding you all in our hearts. Love always, Erica, Paul and Milo

**Erica Jacob** - September 04, 2013 at 06:56 PM

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“ There really are no words to describe how amazing my grandpa IS. He will always be with me. Besides being the cutest man in the world, he is so kind, considerate, hilarious, and just all around a great man. It really has been giving me comfort over the last couple days knowing that he's with my grandma and they are watching over me together. I came into work yesterday and saw the beautiful birthday card that he wrote me a few months ago, that says "Best Wishes... on your birthday and throughout the coming year." In his own writing it says "Much Love, Grandpa & Grandma (From Heaven). I'm glad that I hadn't taken this down yet... because now I will leave it there forever as a sign from grandpa to really have best wishes throughout the coming year and know that now he's sending me much love from heaven too, WITH grandma. <3 So glad I was able to have the most special Christmas ever with him. Love you grandpa.



**Alyssa Boyd** - September 04, 2013 at 01:08 PM

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“ Carrie and I send thoughts, prayers and sympathy to you, Linda, Tricia and your families. We will miss Uncle Jer very much and will remember many, many good memories. Much love to all of you. Pat and Carrie Kern

**Patricia Kern** - September 04, 2013 at 11:54 AM

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“ We have so many special memories of both your dad and your mom. We spent much of our dating times at their home in Chicago and were blessed to have had them in our lives. Love and Sympathy to you, Linda and Tricia and your families.

Bob and Pat Jarolim

**Pat Jarolim** - September 04, 2013 at 09:54 AM

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“ What an honor to spend last Christmas with Jerry. A remarkable man who shared so many memories with us. He will be missed.  
Dara and Noshir

**Dara Mehta** - September 03, 2013 at 04:31 PM