



John Leon Goodman

June 27, 1927 - January 11, 2018

TRAVERSE CITY – John Leon Goodman, 90, passed away on January 11, 2018. The son of William and Harriet (Wood) Goodman, he was born in Lansing on June 27, 1927. After high school graduation he enlisted in the Army Air Force and served in Italy and Germany during World War II performing his duties overseas for fifteen months as a crew member on a transport aircraft. After discharge he spent time at Michigan State University and was employed by the Michigan Department of Resources for forty years. He moved to Elk Rapids, Michigan in 1999.

In the past, he was active in the Boy Scouts, as a deacon at the First Presbyterian Church in Lansing, a longtime member of the American Legion and the National Office Managers Association. He was also known through the DNR as an emcee for numerous events. His wit and sense of humor made him a favorite for many.

He is survived by his son Stuart Goodman of Lansing, daughter Annie Goodman of Traverse City, and several step children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please send memorial contributions in John's name to Joy Givers assisted living.

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

Cemetery

Deepdale Cemetery

Lansing, MI,

Comments



“ Oh my gosh, the memories of working with John are nothing short of the best! He was my wallmate for a couple of years and we had such a great time, and it made the day go by quickly. I still have a special label-maker pin-on name tag he made for me. It simply said, “I DON'T KNOW”. I still have it in my jewelry box. What a great guy. I am sorry I didn't know he lived up here so close to us. I would have loved to visit with him.

Carol Phillips

Carol Phillips - January 16, 2018 at 12:55 PM



“ My name is Frank Baldwin and I worked with John for many years at the Water Resources Commission/Department of Natural Resources. I am so sorry to hear of his passing and wish you the comfort of God's grace.

John was a wonderful man with a great sense of humor. When I first began working for the WRC John found out that my heritage was Italian. Then over the years I would find mysterious letters on my desk from “The Old Country “. They were hilarious. I kepted many of them and have them in a note book. Occasionally I will pull the notebook down and read them.

Again John was a good decent man and I know he will be missed.

Frank Baldwin - January 16, 2018 at 11:59 AM



“ I sent the following to Mike Moore so he can send an e-mail to DNR/DEQ Retirees. I've often asked about John at retiree picnics but no one seemed to have current information. John was a treasure, great office manager, and always fun to be around. He trained many office manager staff that had long careers in the Department. Here's the e-mail I sent.

When I started as a student conservation aide in 1970 John was the office manager. If it weren't for him I may never have had a career in the DNR/DEQ. I scored a 96 on the Water Quality Investigator Civil Service exam when most of the questions were technical. My name was inactive on the register since I was full time in graduate school and if your name was chosen and you refused an interview the name was taken off the register. Somehow he knew the score and gave my name to John Cosens anyway. John asked me to work for him anyway. I activated my name and he waited four months for me to start working for him in the Lansing District Office. The rest is history and I worked a forty year career.

To say John had a good sense of humor is a huge understatement. I kept quite a few of his humorous "letters" he would under pseudonym send to Frank "Baldini" and "Scotti MacRossi." They provided lots of laughs and some unofficial use of the copy machine.

Scott Ross

Scott Ross - January 15, 2018 at 01:35 PM