



Joseph Mary Burden

August 14, 2011

TRAVERSE CITY — Joseph Gerard Mary Burden has been called back into the presence of the Lord. Angels arrived Sunday night, Aug. 14, 2011, to comfort those with him and to escort Joe home. Joe was born with Downs Syndrome on Feb. 17, 1960, to Patrick and Dora Burden, in Traverse City. He was a blessing to everyone who knew and loved him. Joe lived his 51 years with grace, a halo and an ear-to-ear grin that warmed so many hearts. He was a man of simple tastes who loved life, Whoppers and girl watching. Joe attended Montessori and special education classes until he was 25. He enjoyed music, bowling, swimming, dancing, frisbee and good food. He also loved competing in the Special Olympics. Joe worked at Grand Traverse Industries for 21 years, performing piece work, a job he loved. He was especially proud when receiving his paycheck. He resided at Elmwood AFC home for the past five years. The tender, loving care he received there only made his smile brighter. He was a charmer whose subtle and gentle magnetism warmed you from the inside out. Special thanks is extended to the Chrystel Anslow family and the Community Living Center. Joe is survived by five brothers, Michael, of Port Angeles, Wash., Daniel (Marilyn), of Shelby Twp., Patrick, of Lake Leelanau, Timothy (Diane), of Traverse City, and Jon, of Two Rivers, Wis.; and two sisters, Marsha (Michael) Howard, of Traverse City, and Gerilyn Burden, of Traverse City. Joe will also be missed by many nieces, nephews, coworkers, teachers and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Patrick and Dora Burden. A funeral service is being held today, Aug. 17, at 11 a.m., with visitation one hour prior, at Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. Join us for a celebration of life. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Special Olympics and the Community Living Center. Friends are welcome to sign Joe's online guestbook at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>. The family is being served by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.