



Joseph A. Shimek

August 6, 1928 - November 29, 2018

Joseph A. Shimek died peacefully November 29th, at the Cherry Hill Haven in Traverse City after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's disease, dementia, and more recently pneumonia.

Joseph was born August 6, 1928, on the family farm in Maple City. He was the son of Joseph and Agnes (Vajner) Shimek. On June 20, 1953, he married Donaleen Thompson. They enjoyed forty-six years together until she passed away in 1999.

Joseph graduated from Leland High School in 1947. Upon graduation, he worked at various jobs and for Harris McBurney Co. out of Jackson, Mi with his brother-in-law Albion Nemeskal. In June 1951, he joined the army, was a veteran of the Korean War and was discharged in 1953. In 1954, Joseph enrolled at the Ferris Institute and graduated with a teaching and business degree. He began his educational career teaching and coaching at Buckley Community School from 1957 to 1959. Then from 1960 to 1964, he taught, coached and became superintendent at Copemish Community School. In 1964, Copemish became part of the consolidation of Benzie County Central Schools and he became principal and taught at Platte River Elementary School in Honor for many years and then taught high school business subjects until his retirement in 1986. Throughout Joe's life, he was very involved with his cherry orchards (Shimek's Maple Ridge Orchards). He was a past member of The Glen Lake Reformed Church, VFW, and Eagles. Besides working in his orchards, he enjoyed fishing, hunting, watching sports, family get-togethers and polka music.

He is survived by his daughter, Agnes (Tad) Carter of Maple City; two sons Keith (Kellie) Shimek and Michael (Mary) Shimek of Maple City; grandchildren, Julia, Britton, Kayla, Kory, Kendra, Sam, and Margaret "Meg"; great-grandchildren, Tila, Laila, Owen, Joey, and Madison. He is also survived by a sister; Bernice Gallup of Traverse City, many nieces and nephews; and friend Joanne Hawley.

Joseph was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Donaleen; brother Frank (Marge)

Shimek; and sisters Josephine (Merlin) Sleder, Vera (Albion) Nemeskal, Mamie (Daniel) Bean, Millicent (Maurice) Gallup, and infant brother Myles Shimek.

Visitation will be held from 10:00-11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 1st, followed by a memorial service at 11:00 a.m. at the Reynolds-Johnkoff Funeral Home in Traverse City. Interment of his ashes will be in the Cleveland Township Cemetery at a later date.

The family would like to thank all of the caregivers at Cherry Hill Haven for their love, support and care of our father over the last nearly four years that he has been a resident there.

In lieu of flowers, please make a contribution to your favorite charity at this special time of the year.

Cemetery

Events

Cleveland Twp.

DEC **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

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Maple City, MI,

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

DEC **Celebration of Life** 11:00AM

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

Comments



“ Mary Tisue lit a candle in memory of Joseph A. Shimek



Mary Tisue - December 01 at 11:09 PM



“ I was always afraid of Mr. Shimek in Jr. High school and never figured out how beautiful Agnes, my friend, could be a daughter to such a quiet and scary man. He was nice, just scary because he was so quiet and just stood at the end of the hall between classes and looked like a towering master over all of us.

Mary Tisue - December 01 at 11:09 PM



“ An external video has been added.



Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - December 01 at 08:07 AM



“ Joe was my Senior Class sponsor at Buckley High School in 1959. I always remembered him as a kind, patient man, with a warm smile that greeted us in our classroom each day. A few of us students would drop by his house now and than to say hello to him and his very nice wife, Donaleen. They always made us feel welcomed. I am so sorry for your loss of a very good man. RIP Mr Shimek, you were never forgotten.



Ruth Ann (Komrska) Smith - November 30 at 10:14 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Joseph A. Shimek.



November 30 at 11:28 AM



“ I was one of Mr. Shimek's students back in the 70's. He was always patient with me. I was a challenging student; I just couldn't keep quiet in a classroom. He never gave up on me. I will never forget him and will forever appreciate his patience and kindness. So sorry for your loss.

Kelley Oliver - November 30 at 11:15 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph A. Shimek.



November 30 at 10:46 AM



“ So many memories of your father. I didn't realize he was only one month younger than my dad. I am sure your dad and my dad are up in Heaven sharing cherry stories, maybe even tales about their best cherry years. May the memories give you peace.

Kathi Thoreson - November 29 at 08:57 PM