



## Robert Duane Yeiter

July 11, 1923 - September 2, 2014

Robert Duane Yeiter, 91, of Traverse City passed away Tuesday, September 2, 2014 at Grand Traverse Pavilions in Traverse City.

Born on July 11, 1923 to the late Orlo and Rosella (Curtiss) Yeiter in Grand Rapids, Bob graduated from Lowell High School in 1941 and enrolled in Michigan State College and joined the ROTC program. Bob's ROTC unit was called up to active duty on December 9, 1942 and he transferred into the 505 Parachute Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division of the United States Army. Bob's military service included jumping in the pre-dawn hours of D-Day behind enemy lines where his Division was credited with liberating the 1st French city of the Allied invasion at Normandy. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and numerous other battles in Holland before marching into Berlin. With the war in Europe officially over, the Allied forces were charged with occupying Berlin. During this occupation, the Army selected one person from the 82nd Airborne Division for educational training at the Ecole Hoteliere in Paris. Bob was chosen for this opportunity which reinforced his decision to pursue a career in the hospitality industry. Bob received two purple hearts and numerous other medals for his service to our country. Bob was discharged from the Army as a Tech Sargent on December 21, 1945 and then returned to college to graduate in 1947 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Hotel and Restaurant Administration.

After spending a winter helping to operate the Waterville Valley Ski Resort in New Hampshire, he became the manager of the Kent County Country Club in Grand Rapids. In 1952, Bob moved north to Traverse City and purchased the Villa Restaurant on East Grand Traverse Bay and renamed it "The Pinestead" (Home in the Pines). Bob owned and operated The Pinestead Restaurant through several major renovations and the successor Pinestead-Reef Resort until 1989 when he retired from the restaurant business. After his retirement, Bob and Jeannine opened a Bed and Breakfast (the "Hannah Beach House") in their home for a few years. The B&B was named after the original owners, the Perry Hannah family.

Bob was an active member of the Traverse City Chamber of Commerce for many years

and worked to get the "Miracle Mile" designation for the mile of sugar-sand beach along the southern shore of East Bay. In the early history of Holiday Hills Ski Area, Bob helped clear trees for ski runs and was a stockholder of Holiday Hills for a period of time.

Bob was a member of the Rotary Club since 1978, and served the club as Secretary for many years. As Secretary, he always looked forward to greeting the members for lunch every Tuesday. Bob was an avid hunter and fisherman. He enjoyed many fishing outings with his brother Sam and friends Jack and Kirby from Grand Rapids. Bob was especially fond of Mother's Manistee Club and the group of fellow outdoorsmen who were members. He loved the years of camaraderie, fishing, hunting, fine wild-game meals, storytelling and the pranks they all enjoyed together.

On May 20, 1955 he married the former Jeannine Sue Lute in Grand Rapids. Bob and Jeannine raised their 4 children in Traverse City. Bob is survived by his children, Curtiss R. (Christine) Yeiter of Traverse City, Robin D. (Michael) Noval of Los Angeles, CA, Michael J. (Mary) Long of Traverse City, and Tracey C. (Frank) Cusenza of Crystal Lake, IL. Also surviving are his grandchildren, Brian and Kelley Long, Josh and Corey Cusenza, Mason, Megan and Matthew (Marisa) Yeiter and a great grandson expected soon. He was preceded in death by his sister, brother and Jeannine his wife of 58 years.

A time to visit with the family will take place from 10 am until 11 am Saturday, Sept. 13 at The Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home with a time of sharing and military rites beginning at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation, 1000 Pavilions Circle, Traverse City, MI 49684.

Please share your memories and stories of Bob with his family by way of his online guest book at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com> .

The family is being served by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

# Events

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**SEP** **Visitation for friends and family** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

**13**

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

**SEP** **Sharing Time** 11:00AM

**13**

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

# Comments

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“ I had the privilege of working for Bob and Jeannine at the both the old Pinestead and new Pinestead Reef. From 15 years old until I was 21, Bob served as a great boss and mentor and led by example on how to treat the many people that dined at the Pinestead with the utmost respect and service. He did the same with his employees at all levels. From a 15 year old dishwasher, to a 21 year old waiter/bartender. The coincidental interaction that we have with inspirational people in our lives, help to mold who we are. I was fortunate to have experienced that with Bob. I am sure I am not alone. Rest in Peace.

Tom Nemitz-dishwasher, busboy, waiter, bar tender...and architect.

Tom Nemitz - September 11, 2014 at 03:54 PM

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“ My family has a cabin near Mother's on the Manistee, ours is the Lost Moose Lodge. The first time I met Bob was at Mother's when I was a teenager, and had the privilege of being quizzed by Bob on WW's I and II over dinner. Little did I know of his service until after the quiz. Bob was a great man, and it is sad to see Bob and his generation pass away, as Bob's was truly the Greatest Generation. As a Hospitality Business man and having shared time with Bob, I raise my glass to Bob, his life and service, and all who served with him in the most dire of times.

-Daniel Russell

Daniel Russell - September 10, 2014 at 06:20 PM

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“ To the family of Bob, I understand the pain and sadness of your loss, having just gone through it myself, but want you all to know my prayers and thoughts are with you all. I have so many memories of the years in the past when you spent many hours on the lake next door to us...The wonderful dinners we enjoyed at the Pinestead , the friendliness of Bob as he met us at the door, the smiling face, and the great business man that he was. .Even though we have not been in touch for many years , I still have the fondest memories of you all.. Lovingly, Rhoda Kinney

Rhoda Kinney - September 07, 2014 at 06:05 AM

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“ Curt, Robin, Mike, Tracey and family, please accept our sincere condolences. Your family have provided so many precious memories of our wonderful times together on Silver Lake. We will never forget the hospitality of the Pinestead and your dad's famous lemon tart! We were unaware until this event of your Dad's involvement in WWII. We honor his amazing story and share with you all in the loss of our own 'greatest generation' men in 2014. You are all in our thoughts and prayers!

**Cinda (Kinney) and Kit Simmons** - September 05, 2014 at 07:54 AM

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“ I worked for Bob at the Pinestead for three years, from 1963-65. A year as a dishwasher, a year as a busboy and then a year as a cook. I loved Bob! What a great man and a great boss! He taught me so much about the restaurant business and was always patient and understanding. Like many that served our country in WWII, he never talked about it to my knowledge. I had no idea of his participation and his exemplary record serving our country. His wife and family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Dick Rothermel

**Dick Rothermel** - September 04, 2014 at 07:24 PM

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“ Bob was like a second father to me and to many who worked with him or knew him. He was perhaps one of the kindest, most understanding gentleman I have ever known. He never had a harsh word, even when perhaps he should have. Quick to smile and to welcome you, it was easy to feel at ease with him. I will always cherish my memories, growing up at the Pinestead Restaurant, and his welcoming home. My heart goes out to his beautiful family and friends.

Shelley Thayer

**Shelley Thayer** - September 04, 2014 at 09:00 AM