



Russell 'Russ' Fifarek

January 30, 2011

TRAVERSE CITY — Russell H. "Russ" Fifarek, 90, a Traverse City native, died Sunday, Jan. 30, 2011, at his home, following a sudden illness. Born Oct. 9, 1920, in Traverse City, he was the son of the late Anthony and Kathryn (VanDyne) Fifarek. On Nov. 19, 1942, in San Francisco, he married the former Joyce Nash. Their marriage of 50 years was filled with much love, laughter and great family times. He missed her dearly since her death on May 14, 1991. Joyce truly was the love of his life. He proudly served his country with the United States Navy during World War II. Russ worked as a machinist for Cone Drive Gear, retiring after 33 years of dedicated service. As a gifted musician, Russ will be fondly remembered for his strong ability to play most musical instruments, including the piano, often serenading his friends with their favorite tunes. Russ other interests were taking long rides with family and friends and helping his children and grandchildren with whatever it was they needed. He is survived by his children, Raymond R. Fifarek and his friend, Char Smith, both of Traverse City, Russell A. (Connie, née Meeweenberg) Fifarek, both of Minneapolis, Scott L. (Dorothy, née Morton) Fifarek, both of Traverse City, and Debi K. (Ray Mercine) Fifarek-Mersino, both of Cedar; six grandchildren, Justin, Tulsa, Michael, Tracy, Tron and Tim; and nine great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents and wife, Russ was also preceded in death by his brother, Gerald Fifarek, and his sister-in-law, Florence. Memorial Services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 4, with visitation one hour prior at St. Francis Catholic Church. The Rev. John Green will officiate. It is suggested that those who wish to further honor the memory of Russell H. Fifarek, may do so by making a contribution to the American Cancer Society. Envelopes may be obtained at the church. God's Promise God gives grace for each trial And courage for each sorrow And faith to face in confidence A blessed and bright tomorrow. Kindly share your memories with the family on their online guest book at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>. Arrangements were made with Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.