



Helmuth Hoenig

February 24, 2009

AMASA - Helmuth (Hal, Hammy, Mike) Hoenig, 63, left us Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009.

Helmuth was born Jan. 28, 1946, in Austria, to Frank and Katarina Hoenig. At the age of six, he came to America with his parents and three siblings. After high school, Hal served honorably for three years with Battery A, 1st Battalion, 75th infantry of the U.S. Army.

He received an associate's degree in forestry from Michigan Technological University. He then started his "vacation" job at Isle Royale National Park, where he was employed from 1969 until his retirement in 2006. He always said he had the best job in the world, out on the island, because it was more like a vacation than a job. Every fall when Hal got off the island he headed for deer camp, then ice fishing. In the spring of the year, he could be found out at his sugar shack making maple syrup. When he wasn't working, he was fishing, and he was a legendary fisherman!

Hal was a son, brother, uncle, great Uncle, in which he always remark, "Yes, I am a GREAT Uncle!", but mostly he was our friend and teacher. He taught us all something; whether it was how to cook, bake, fish, tie off a boat, play cribbage or smear, he knew it all and was so eager to share. He taught not only by word, but by action. He was always there to lend a hand or a smile with no complaints.

Hammy is survived by three sisters, Helga (Lange) and Mary (Gustafson) of Amasa, and Rosie of Green Bay, Wis.; six brothers, John, Frankie, Gary, Joe, and Tom, all of Amasa and Peter (Julie) of Beach Park, Ill.; nine nieces, Catherine (Ron), Becca (Jeff), Gretchen (Andrew), Kim (Shawn), Krista, Karly, Meagan, Amanda and Heather; six nephews, Charles, Kyle, Garyck, Travis, Hal and Tommy and 10 great-nieces and great-nephews. He is further survived by relatives in Australia and Austria and by a wealth of friends from all over that he met over the years. It was rare that Hal met someone he didn't like!

He is preceded in death by his parents; infant brother, Frank; brother-in-law Dennis; niece, Kristi; and dog, Fuzzy.

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 noon Monday at Guardian Angels Church in Crystal Falls.

Funeral services will follow at 12 noon on Monday. Fr. Daniel Moll will offer the Mass of the Christian Burial.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established in his memory.

Condolences to the family of Helmuth Hoenig may be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

The family has entrusted the Nash Funeral Home of Crystal Falls with the funeral arrangements

Comments



“ I can't put my thoughts and wonderful memories into the words to show just how much I thought of Hal, or how sad I am to hear of his passing.

Hal, you were a master on that big old Mott Island grill, and to this day I have never had a beer brat that could hold a candle to one of yours. Your infectious laugh cheered me many a time, and it was always a pleasure to pass you on your way somewhere. Several of my fondest childhood memories involve you, and I will never, ever forget you.

Love, Lena

Lena Weber - March 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Our hearts go out to Hal's family for his loss. Hal is a part of so many of our Isle Royale memories - we can't think of the island without picturing Hal greeting the Ranger, stepping off the Loon, welcoming us to his kitchen, tending the planked fish for the North Shore 4th of July gathering. We're not able to attend the memorial service, but we had the good fortune to see Hal last winter in Houghton at Doug Boose's retirement party, though we never thought it would be for the last time. We'll always think of him when we think of Isle Royale - heading out on the water to bob for lakers in the spring.

Frank Whiteman and Julie O'Leary - March 09, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ A great big Goodbye hug to you, Hal!

Pam Griffin - March 09, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ It was ironically appropriate that Hal's Mott Island home (when I lived there) was a small cabin close to the dock. You could not have a better welcoming committee. His cabin was small but his kindness filled us all. His memory will remain forever among my fondest. Now our thoughts and best wishes are with his family and friends.

Lee and Barbara Jameson - March 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dearest friends and family of Hal:

It is with sadness that we learned of Hal's untimely passing. He always treated us well in our 3 summers on the Island (1990, 91 and 92). Nothing seemed to fluster him. He carried great emotional and physical strength with a quiet, confident dignity. Even after we left Island life, we looked forward to spring and the chance to buy a few pints of that year's maple syrup. Hal knew his work well, and attended to it diligently, always striving to put our visitors first. We washed a few lures together, and that was a wonderful time. Sisu, eh?

Bill Fink and family - March 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Our deepest sympathies to Hal's family. He was a great boss and such a fun person to be around. We are all so lucky to have known Hal.

Mike and Trevor Schmitt and Linda Rowe - March 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Sorry to hear of HALS PASSING. he WAS A FUN AND GENEROUS SOUL .
[EXCEPT WITH SOME FISHING SPOTS] WE ALWAYS ENJOYED HIS COMPANY
AND SMILE. A GOOD MAN! THANKS.

Big Ray - March 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Sorry to hear of Hals passing. He was a good friend and founding member of the Isle Royale Gourmet Society. We had great times boating on the weekends to different dock sites and having our gourmet society meals. He will surely be missed and one that cannot be replaced.

Mike Healy - March 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to all of Hal's family. Hal was part of the what was Isle Royale, and Isle Royale was part Hal. I admired the dedication Hal had to his work, and he always seem to do it with a light and happy heart. Our patrol boats and many visitor boats benefited from the fine docks that Hal and his dock crew repaired or replaced on Isle Royale. I know the next time I step onto the docks of Windigo, Beaver, Grace, Hay Bay, Wright's Island, Belle Isle, etc. memories of Hal will come floating up. God Bless,

Larry Kangas, Isle Royale Chief Ranger (Retired)

Larry Kangas - March 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Our sincere condolences to Hal's family. We have so many fond "island" memories of Hal. We can't think of Isle Royale or the Loon without thinkging of Hal. We always looked forward to his annual pig roast each summer. He worked so hard and they were always so much fun. Hal was a kind and gentle soul. He had a beautiful heart that was only outmatched by his infectious smile and laugh. It was fun to catch up with him at the Isle Royale reunion a few summers back. He looked just the same to us even though it had been years since we saw him last. He will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Dan and Barb (Sample) Kriebler - March 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Hal - I can hear your laugh and see your smile though it has already been 15 years since we last visited. You were a piece in my life puzzle that made my home on Mott Island forever a place to remember. As a 9 year old in in 1977 to a 25 year old in 1993 I would stand ready to disembark from the Ranger III hoping and wondering if you would remember me; you never let me down. And so my summer vacation began... Thanks for the memories Hal. Perry W. Croll

Perry Croll - March 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To Hal's Family

Hal was my "boss".. What a great guy,, what great memories of working with him. Our kids just loved him. There is no one that better represented that island,, he loved every minute of it. Good bye old friend,,
condolences to the whole family
Nick and Julie Kent

Nick and Julie Kent - March 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ We are very sorry to hear of the loss of Brother Hal. Hal has been a member of our lodge for many years. Please accept our sincere condolences. Our prayers are with you all. May the memories of the past help to lighten your sorrow.

MaryEllen Hyttinen, Exalted Ruler
Calumet Elks Lodge #404

Calumet Elks Lodge #404 - March 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To Helga Lange (Sister of Helmuth)

Helga, so sorry to hear of Helmuth's death. Judie and I send our sincere condolence to you and your family.

You and family are in our Prayers.

If ever in aor passing through Green Bay, please give us call at 920-434-6960.

Old classmate, bruce Mommaerts

Helmut Hoenig - March 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Family of Hal, as so many people have already stated, Hal is in my fondest memories of my youth spent on the Island. Playing Cribbage with Hal and Roy at Rock Harbor, fishing and waiting for the pickled trout to be ready, the ready smile, the offer to help anyone in needed and a listening ear to a homesick emp. are some of the things that make Hal a memorable person. Even though it has been way to many years since I have seen Hal it is a great sadness to know that he is no longer here to brighten someone elses life.

Linda Judnich-Sanchez - March 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Condolense to Helga Lange (Sister to Helmuth Hoenig)

Helmut Hoenig - March 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To all the Hoenig family and friends, I want to share some happy memories of the many times I spent with Hal. I worked on the trail crew for many years and Hal was one of the first kind souls who made me feel welcome. I can't count the times, coming in off a long tener, he would lumber past the trail cache, smiling his big grin, "Dinner at 7!" he'd announce to one and all. And we were treated to yet another of his wonderful meals and cribbage, cribbage, cribbage! Hal took me fishing so many times and was with me when I caught my biggest lake trout. In fact, I was convinced I'd won the annual fishing contest with my 24 pounder until we trolled over the spot "just one more time", and he proceeded to out fish me with his beautiful scarless red fin at 28 pounds, 15 ounces! My jealousy quickly receded with his smile. The fact that he generously smoked the fish for me was just another of his kind gestures. Whether fishing, blueberry picking, helping him cook (mostly watching!)enjoying his company with friends and laughter, he was a joy to be with. He was always the first to greet me as the season started, standing there ready to guide the stern line of the Ranger III, and the last to wave as we left the island for yet another year. I mourn his passing, and pray for peace and many happy memories to console you all.

Jenny Gallagher (Hoffman) - March 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Hilda,

It seems this is our only communication, offering sympathy in yet another loss for you. Please know my thoughts are again with your family as you say good by, for now, to a member of your family circle. Life is seemingly short and the realization comes when another one of loved ones goes to be with the Lord. My thoughts and prayers will be with you now and continue to Monday when the services are held. May many memories hold your brother dear to you. God bless.

Pat Jansen - March 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ The Hoenig Family,

Melissa and I were saddened when Pete called with the news of Hal. Hal always welcomed us with kind words, sparkling eyes and a smile as big as the world. I know he will be missed by all who knew him.

Our prayers and deepest sympathy to The Hoenig Family and all who knew Hal.

Love to All,
Melissa, Tom, Brigid and Eileen

Thomas Taylor - March 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My prayers and deepest sympathy to Hal's family. The world is full of wonderful people but Hal was certainly one of the most outstanding. There is no doubt in my mind that Hal is in heaven, if he doesn't make it I'd say that the rest of us are in big trouble.

David Latvala - March 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Hoenig and Lange families, It is seems unbelievable that Hal is gone so soon. He deserved a long, relaxing retirement--fishing, gardening, cooking; enjoying the company of his friends and family and watching his beloved nieces and nephews growing up.

Hal had a good life, as proved by his loving family and the many, many friends whose lives he touched. We carry countless wonderful memories of him that we cherish. Sharing seemed as natural as breathing for Hal. He loved his family and friends and was loved in return. Wherever he went, his easy-going nature and kind spirit brought people together. Hal made people feel welcome and at ease. In his company (and at his table) strangers became friends. His passing leaves a void in the large community of those who knew and loved him. We will miss Hal's warmth and wit. But we feel blessed to have been counted among his friends.

Sue and Brian Ruddy - March 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My heartfelt condolences to the family of Hal. It was always great fun (and usually a loss on my side of the cribbage board) to pick up a game and chat with Hal. His interest in history and chats about what he was reading gave me insights into a very gentle bear of a man. His knowledge of the Island and efforts to keep the docks maintained are a testimony to the man who knew how to get things done the right way so they would last beyond many people's lifetimes. Thank you for sharing Hal.
Phyllis

phyllis green - March 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



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Phyllis

phyllis green - March 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Hal, I know you are receiving this message. It's been many years since we spent time together on the island...but I never have and will not forgot you. You were a unique individual....kind, compassionate, polite, fun to be around...and a hell of a fisherman and green stone hunter. It is an honor to have known you and spend time with you. I know you are in a better place. I'll see you soon.

Dick Petryk - March 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Hoenig Family,
WE our so sorry to Hear about Hal all though I only Met him a couple of times he left a good ever lasting impression with me , he will always be remembered,God Bless Phil Hanna and Family

Phil hanna - March 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



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WE our so sorry to Hear about Hal I though I only Met him a couple of times he left a good ever lasting impression with me , he will always be remembered,God Bless Phil Hannaand Family

Phil hanna - March 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy to Hal's family. Many good memories of Hal on the Island. One of the most memorable was the time he came into Snug Harbor with the Loon and a load of lumber. As he was attempting to dock the load shifted and and flipped the boat on it's side. Hal very calmly made his way out of the cabin and to the side of the boat, took out his pocket knife, cut the lumber loose and the boat righted itself. If you didn't believe the story all you had to do was look at the foot prints along the side of the boat, in the fresh paint, that remained there all summer. What a great guy. He will be missed.

John Boyle - March 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My deepest sympathies to Hal's family and many many many friends. I first met Hal on Isle Royale 32 years ago on a dock on Barnum Island-my dad, Bud, introduced me to him. Hal's big red faced grin and hearty giggle coming from that big man were something that at first made me a bit afraid of him, but he soon won me over with his generous and gentle and kindly spirit. (a lesson about greenstones in the rough). He surprised me with his vast knowlege and interest in so many things, and I was especially moved when he drove all the way from Houghton to Duluth to see my college art show. I remember him disappearing from the gallery for a while and then returning excitedly with a book he had bought in the Tweed Museum Gallery Shop - that had a chili recipe in it he was anxious to try out! "My Pal Hal"was a gem, and I will always remember him.

Liz Sivertson - March 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Hal was a good dude. As my sister (Katy Anderson) already stated... he was a staple of our childhood on Isle Royale. I vividly remember days of sitting around Mott Island asking him where the best places to fish and look for the other green lunkers... He was always cheerful even on those rainy island days. Really a great guy and I feel lucky to have known him. Best to his family and friends.

John Anderson Jr - Minneapolis

John Anderson Jr - February 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Auntie Helga and Family, We are thinking of you and your family at this time. I have many memories of "Uncle" Hal and what a great man he was. I know that he will live on in all of our hearts.

Nicole Lind-Kuzak and Family - February 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ All of our hearts are heavy knowing the he is gone from our lives here on earth. We all learned lessons in selfless courage, words of wisdom, and humanity from dear uncle Hal. To love and be loved are the greatest gifts and he had both. We will miss him forever.

Love, Becca

Becca LaChapelle - February 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Hal is a prominent figure of my childhood as we spent parts of our summers in Tobin Harbor (Isle Royale). Hal would come over to visit my grandparents (Chuck and Betsy Boyle) on Hotel Island, fishing for big Lakers, gifting Amasa maple syrup, and enthralling my brother and I with his MASSIVE greenstone collections!!! We will miss Hal, such a kind, wonderful family friend.
Katy Erinn Anderson
Yellowstone National Park

Katy Erinn Anderson - February 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM



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Love, Becca

Becca LaChapelle - February 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Our heartfelt sympathy to all of Hal's family. He is by far one of the most genuine beings of love and kindness. Our family has lovely memories from the Island with Hal. Fishing with Hal, dinner with Hal, enjoying his maple syrup during the winter, learning cribbage with Hal, visits on the dock at Mott with Hal, seeing his sweetness with his family when they came to visit the Island, spending a night and realizing he is reading all of Shakespeare. The mold was broken when Hal along! Our family loves him very much. He was a dear friend to many. With our sympathy from the Boyle and Anderson families.

Mary Boyle Anderson - February 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My love and prayers are sent out to all Hal's family and who knew Hal as a friend. He was one of the most kind and generous men I have ever met with his love, kindness and hospitality. I feel he would like us to always celebrate his life...God Bless, jul

Julie Dahl - February 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Helga, so sorry for the loss of your brother. Prayers for you and yours. Peace,
Denise Nault

Denise Nault - February 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Sisu.

Our deepest sympathies.

Butch and Sue Kenney - February 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Hemmy will be sadly missed by everyone he knew. He was such a gentle Soul.

Michelle Graves - February 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM