



Eugene LaChapelle,

March 12, 2009

CRYSTAL FALLS - Eugene N. "Gene" LaChapelle Sr., 77, of Crystal Falls, died Thursday, March 12, 2009, at the Iron County Hospital in Iron River.

He was born on April 27, 1931, in Iron County, son of the late Eli and Teresa (Chemello) LaChapelle. He attended the Forest Park Schools graduating from Forest Park High School in 1950. Upon graduating, he joined the United States Coast Guard on July 19, 1950, and was honorably discharged on July 18, 1953.

He married Dorothy Look at St. Joseph Catholic Church in East Tawas, Mich. and they spent 54 wonderful years together. He would live in East Tawas until moving to Crystal Falls in 1960. After his service with the Coast Guard, he took a job with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) starting as an engineering aide. He had many duties and job titles with MDOT, and would retire in 1990 as a construction technician. Upon retiring he worked as an office tech trainer with MDOT.

Gene was an active member of the Guardian Angels Catholic Church. He served on the Parish Council, the Finance Council, and the Building and Grounds Committee. He also served as an usher, an extraordinary minister, and an adult server for many years.

He was very active with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the Upper Peninsula for many years, serving as past president. Gene was a member of the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree and served as the past Grand Knight. He was also a member of the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). In the year 2007, Gene was voted Citizens of the Year by the Crystal Falls Lions Club.

Gene is survived by his loving wife of more than 54 years, Dorothy; children, Paul (Connie) LaChapelle of Cumming, Ga., Bryan (Diane) LaChapelle of Crystal Falls, Nick (Jean) LaChapelle of Crystal Falls, Pamela (Fred) Coburn of Littleton, Colo., and Jeffrey (Rebecca) LaChapelle of Ishpeming; grandchildren, Sara, Joe, Bryan "Little Bry," Kristin, Kaitlin, Meaghan, Alexandra, Colton, Samantha, Eric, Adam, Valerie, Lea and Eli; grand-pups, Eli, Elly Mae, Buzby and Mr. Big; great-grandchildren, Alexis and Elizabeth; a brother, Ronald (Sue) LaChapelle of Poway, Calif. and a sister, Leonora Wilson of Oceanside, Calif.

Visitation will be Monday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Crystal Falls.

The funeral Mass will follow Monday at 11 a.m. at the church. Fr. Norman Clisch will offer the Mass of Christian Burial.

The Eastside Veteran's Council will do a pass-by tribute at 10:45 a.m. Monday at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Iron County Cancer Unit, P.O. Box 45, Iron River, Mich. 49935.

Burial will be in the Evergreen Cemetery in the spring.

The Eastside Veteran's Council will accord full military honors in the spring.

Condolences to the family of Eugene "Gene" LaChapelle can be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

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

Tribute Wall

CG

“ *To the family of Eugene:
Gene & I were stationed at Marquette Life Boat Station. About a year ago I found him thru the internet and we had a nice conversation.
My deepest sympathy on such a good man. May his memory be eternal.
Sincerely,
Chris Kalogerson952-935-9065*

Chris Kalogerson - Edina (Minneapolis), MN - Former Coast Guardsman - April 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Jeff and family,
My sincere condolences to all of you in your loss. Your dad was a wonderful man, always cheerful and a smile on his face. He will be truly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time.*

Julie

Julie (Karnack) Hanrahan - March 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ *Dear Jeff and the rest of the family: My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. I have fond memories of the trip up to Minnesota with your dad. He was always very "cool" to me and someone that I looked up to.*

*Sincerely,
Jon*

Jon LaBombarb - March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Our deepest sympathy on your loss. We know he was a wonderful man and a loving husband. I know everyone is blessed for knowing such a great man. Our prayers are with you and your family.

Daniel Absolon Family - March 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

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Daniel Absolon Family - March 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

EO

“ To all members of the LaChapelle Family: Ed and I were very sorry to hear that Gene had passed away.He was a great neighbor and friend. He and the family members, will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Edward and Peggy O'Halloran - March 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family Dorothy...what a great man, I always loved talking with Gene whenever we bumped into him while visiting in Crystal falls. God bless Steve and Marcia Casey.

Steve and Marcia Casey - March 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PY

“ Desr Dorothy and family, our thoughts are with you at this sad time. Gene was such a very nice man and we enjoyed seeing him at St Vinnies when we worked there. May the Lord heal your hurt.

Sincerely,
Paul and Donna Young

Paul and Donna Young - March 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ Dorthy, My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time of sorrow. Glen and I both enjoyed working with Gene and you at St Vincent. You were such a comfort for me. If there is any thing I can do, please let me know. Sincerely Blanche

Blanche Gursky - March 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Dorothy, Nick, Jeff and all of the LaChapelle Family: We hope you can find comfort in knowing that you are not alone - our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Your Crystal Falls MDOT Family

MDOT Family-Crystal Falls - March 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM

WY

“ I'm sorry to hear of your husband and father's passing. He was an insperation and well respected christian I was proud to look up to.

William Yates - March 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Dear LaChapelle Family-

You all have my deepest and most heart felt condolences in your time of sorrow. Rejoice in all the achievements and successes that he enjoyed and share those good memories with each other.

Paul Sundquist - March 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ To Dorothy and the LaChapelle Family:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Gene was an exceptional person with a strong devotion to his family, faith, friends and his community.

We have been blessed knowing Gene and our lives have been made richer from the friendships we share with his family.

Please accept our condolences for not being able to with you in the Great U.P. to celebrate the life of our friend.

*All our love,
Sue and Jim*

Sue and Jim Kealy; Bel Air, MD - March 15, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SM

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Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Gene was an exceptional person with a strong devotion to his family, faith, friends and his community.

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Please accept our condolences for not being able to with you in the Great U.P. to celebrate the life of our friend.

*All our love,
Sue and Jim*

Sue and Jim Kealy; Bel Air, MD - March 15, 2009 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ *Dear Dorothy and Family:*

I was saddened to hear of Gene's passing this week. He was truly the "Patriarch" of Guardian Angels and will be deeply missed by the community. I feel privileged to have known him the past 6 years and know he was extremely helpful and supportive during my time as Pastor.

May the Lord bless you all with the peace and comfort only He can provide during this time of loss in your lives. Eternal rest grant unto Gene, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he now rest in the embracing peace of the risen Christ.

*My prayers and love,
Fr. Dino*

Fr. Diino Silvestrini - March 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all in this time of sorrow.*
Sincerely, Pam

Pamela Davis - March 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM