



John Plowe

January 10, 2010

CRYSTAL FALLS - John M. Plowe, of Elm Grove Lane in Crystal Falls, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 10, 2010, at his home surrounded by his loving family.

Plowe, a well known retired businessman in Crystal Falls, was born in Houghton, on April 16, 1929, and received his schooling in that community. He was a 1947 graduate of Houghton High School, and went on to attend Suomi College, Northern Michigan University, and also graduated from the Wisconsin Institute of Mortuary Science.

He married Carol Moberg of Marquette, in 1952. The couple celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary in September 2009.

Plowe served in the U.S. Army for three years. He was a first lieutenant platoon leader with the 15th Infantry Regiment in Korea from 1952-53. He received two Bronze Stars during this time, plus the National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, two Battle Stars, and the Combat Infantry Badge.

In December 1957, John Plowe purchased the funeral home in Crystal Falls, which became known as the Plowe Funeral Home, and now is known as the Jacobs-Plowe Funeral Home. Then in June 1960, he purchased the furniture

store on Main Street and it has been known as Plowe Furniture for the past 50 years. He retired from both businesses on Jan. 1, 1990.

John Plowe had a long and wide-ranging record of community involvement. He was a member of the American Legion Unit 87 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2891 for 50 years, the East Side Veterans Council, the board of directors of the First National Bank of Crystal Falls and a devoted parishioner of Guardian Angels Catholic Church. He served as the VFW chaplain for 50 years, the American Legion adjutant and also served as chaplain. He also said the prayers and presented the American Flag at all veterans funerals.

He held the office of Camp Christine Veterans Park treasurer for 22 years, served as Memorial Day master of ceremonies for 50 years, was chairman and treasurer of the VFW Scholarship Fund, chairman of the VFW Wheelchair Fund, was the speaker for many Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies and was an honored speaker at the closing ceremony of the visiting Vietnam Wall.

Plowe was also the chairman of fund drives for the Veterans War Memorial in Evergreen Cemetery and the fund to secure a building for senior citizens, as well as for the American Legion's Camp Christine deck and roof projects at Lake Mary. He also chaired the Edward Jacobs Veterans summer uniform drive for the Forest Park High School Band.

He was past president of the Rotary Club, the Crystal Manor Board, the chamber of commerce and vice president of the Community Hospital Board of Directors.

John Plowe was the 1975 Lions Club Citizen of the Year and was the Iron County Business Man of the Year in 1982. He marched down Superior Avenue in Crystal Falls many, many years in many, many Memorial Day,

Veterans Day, Bass Festival and V-J Day Parades. In 1999, Plowe was named the Grand Marshall of the V-J Day Celebration Parade and rode in a deserved place of honor down Main Street. In the summer of 2009, John was the Honoree of the Day for the Alpha 4th of July Celebration to recognize his 50 years of service to the veterans organization.

John is survived by his wife, Carol; two sons, Steve (Terrie) Plowe, owners of Plowe Furniture and Crystal Home Interiors in Crystal Falls, and Greg (Steve) Plowe, Global Marketing director for SABMiller in London; two daughters, Kathy (Kevin) Mussatto of Milwaukee, who is a nurse scientist in the pediatric heart program at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, and Kris (Mike) Friedel of Mequon, Wis., a business analyst with Manpower's International Headquarters in Milwaukee; two brothers, Mort (Catherine) Plowe of Houghton, and Ronald (Robyn) Plowe of Florida; one sister, Mary Joan McCreight of Rialto, Calif.; six grandchildren, Katie (Nathan) Clark, Brendon Plowe, Natalie Mussatto, Dominic Mussatto, Brooklynn Friedel, and Lukas Friedel; and two great-grandchildren, Taylor and Tatum Clark.

Visitation will be Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Nash Funeral Home in Crystal Falls.

Parish prayers will be recited at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday at the funeral home.

The Eastside Veterans, the VFW, and American Legion of Crystal Falls will Pass in Review at 9:45 a.m. on Thursday at Guardian Angels Catholic Church.

Funeral services will be Thursday at 10 a.m. at Guardian Angels Church. Fr. Jeffrey Kurtz will offer the Mass of Christian Burial.

Burial will be in the Evergreen Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Alton Beck, John Brozak, Walt Hagglund, Ron May, Dave Orchard, and Frank Siewiorek.

Full military honors will be accorded by all veterans attending at the Evergreen Cemetery in Crystal Falls.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in John Plowe's name to the Iron County Cancer Unit or St. Vincent de Paul Society of Crystal Falls.

Condolenses may be expressed to the family of John M. Plowe online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

The Nash Funeral Home of Crystal Falls is serving the family.

Tribute Wall

GS

“ Carol and the Plowe family. Marge and I were so sorry to hear of John's passing. I knew he was not well, as Marge talked with him at Watersmeet from time to time. I have great memories of the times we spent at the Martinson camp during deer hunting season. It has never been the same since he and Doug Sherk no longer hunted with us. He will be missed by us, all who knew him and the many things he did for the City of Crystal Falls and the Veterans. Our condolences to you all.

Gene and Marge Schiavo - January 31, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ Sorry to read of John's passing tonight as I perused the Daily News online. I am in Gulf Shores, AL, for the winter, so it's the first I heard. I knew John from his many visits at all hours of the day and night when I was Charge Nurse at Crystal Falls Hospital. His friendly, easy-going personality was always appreciated, and I'm sure he will be missed by many. I'm happy I had a chance to see him one more time at the VFW pancake feed last summer.

Sincerely,
Mary L. Grabski
Florence, WI

Mary L. Grabski - January 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ To the family, You are all in our thoughts and prayers through this tough time. John was a great mam! We wish you all only the best!!!!

John and Sharon Flowers - January 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TJ

“ My condolences to Carol, Steve, Greg, Kathy, Kris, I was sadden to hear of John's passing. I can not put in words what he had done for me and other in the community. He was a great man and I will always remember him for the rest of my life.

Todd James

Todd James - January 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Our condolences to the Plowe family and all of John's friends. It is so hard to lose a loved one no matter how old or young, but we hope your memories will remind you of what a special man he was.

Our prayers with you all.

Joan Harbour-Petrelus, Dennis Harbour, Brian Harbour, Tom Harb - January 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Carol, Steve, Greg, Kathy, Kris and families, It is hard to see a family member die as our family is small. I want to thank him for always stopping and visiting dad and mom and telling a joke or two. His charm, wit and drive will never be forgotten. May he rest in peace

JIM PLOWE - January 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ Katie - I'm so sorry for your loss. I have very fond memories spend time with your grandparents and you! We are all thinking about you and your family!

Love - Elisa (Kurtz) Servais and family

Elisa Servais - January 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ Our deepest sympathy and prayers for your family. John was a good customer and a huge asset to our community and will be sadly missed. I will always remember his deep soft voice and positive words. Truly a very caring man.

Tom and Joe Hoenig - January 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ My condolences to the family of John Plowe. A great man, he will be missed.

Josh Anderson - January 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ Many thoughts and prayers are with you, Carol, and the Plowe family. I was one of the many fortunate citizens who knew John throughout the years. He was one of the businessmen who joined the "knights of the round table" for coffee breaks at The Midtown Restaurant in the early '60's. I, a teenage waitress, was impressed with the courteous, respectful manner John exhibited to people of all ages. John was an exemplary funeral director and ours was one of many families he served with compassion. His contributions to our community and country will not be forgotten.

Lorna (Makuck) Anderson - January 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Carol and family ~ Sending along my sympathy to you all during this time in the loss of your Dear~Husband and Father. See you Thursday morning.

Love, Mary Kay

Mary Kay Massoglia - January 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Our condolences to the Plowe Family. John was an outstanding community contributor and supporter of veterans. Crystal Falls and the surrounding community will miss his service.

Larry and Connie Sandri - January 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the whole Plowe Family. John was a very dear and sweet man. He did well for all our Veterans and over saw many great things. I was glad and honored to have known him. John had the most beautiful voice when giving his speeches. The man had away with words also. Memorial Day will never be the same. Hold on to those memories of him in your hearts and minds. God Bless and Thinking of all of you in your time of need.

Michelle Smokevitch-Graves - January 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ With sympathy and prayers. We will never forget the eloquent and loving prayer Mr. Plowe recited at Kris and Mike's wedding. A prayer spoken with so much love. You will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Mary Lee and Rick Calvelli - January 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

M1

“ On behalf of the members of the Michigan Funeral Directors Association, District 10, we offer our condolences to Carol and family members and offer our thanks to John for his service to the community. Jack L. Reid, President.

MFDA District 10 - January 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ *After all the years of care and comfort given by John and Carol: rest in peace John and may God Bless Carol in her loss. My sympathies to the entire family, as well. I will forever remain grateful for all the Plowe family has done for and meant to the Drake family.*

Karen Drake Semke - January 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM