



Raymond "Ray" Perry

April 23, 1928 - April 23, 2013

Raymond G. "Ray" Perry, 85, of Crystal Falls, passed away on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at Northstar Health System in Iron River.

Ray was born March 9, 1928 in Crystal Falls, son of the late Thomas and Elsie (Pederson) Perry. He graduated from Crystal Falls High School in 1945 and lived in the area for most of his life. Following graduation, Ray enlisted in the Merchant Marines for a short time prior to joining the United States Army. He served his country for seven years and was stationed in the U.S. and Germany. Ray married Helen Eckola on January 9, 1954 in Crystal Falls. Ray continued his schooling at Michigan Tech University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He worked as a mechanical engineer for many years and also drove bus for the Forest Park School District. He was a member of the Operating Engineers Union for over 40 years and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employee's Union for several years. Ray was a faithful, long-time member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church and was ordained a priest of the church in 1990. He enjoyed woodworking, collecting model trains, and making gifts for his family using his leather tooling skills.

Ray is survived by his wife of 59 years, Helen; five children, Tom (Tonya) Perry of Ishpeming, Susan Sullenger of Marquette, Henry (Roxann) Perry, Jean Thoreson and Christine Perry, all of Crystal Falls; 12 grandchildren, Jake

Perry, Meg Holeva, Melissa Robertson, Katherine Sullenger, Justin, Kelsey & Haley Perry, Jenn Gustafson, Joanna Battan, Jamie Krueger, and Patrick & Emily Hendricks; nine great grandchildren; two sisters, Carol (Bil) Premo of Escanaba and Patt (Allan) Alft of Kansas City, MO; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a son-in-law, Ronald Sullenger.

Visitation will be on Monday, April 29, from 10:00am to 12:00pm at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Crystal Falls. A memorial service will follow at 12:00pm on Monday at the church. Rev. Manuel Padilla will officiate. The Eastside Veterans Council will conduct a Pass-In-Review with Military Honors prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Northstar Health System Respiratory Therapy Unit.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Raymond "Ray" Perry online at www.nashfuneralhome.net

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

Tribute Wall

KM

“ Dear Perry family,
We were sorry to hear of your dad's passing. Our prayers are with you all. We always enjoyed your Dad. It sounds like he had a good life, lots of grandchildren!! We hope you all are doing wonderful. If you are ever visiting Central Illinois, pls let us know; we would love to see you. We are planning a family reunion in July, 2016 and will be in Amasa at that time. Hope we can get together then.
God bless you all!
Karen and Kathleen

Karen (Pagel) McCoy and Kathleen Pagel - Peoria, IL - Friends from school (FPHS & MTU) - May 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Sincerest Condolences to the family and friends of Ray....May he find eternal peace with the Lord!

Todd Wloszczynski - Jacksonville, FL - April 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Dear Helen and family, Our sincere sorrow to hear of your loss. Because of commitments we are unable to attend the services but our prayers are with you. Ray & Dorothy

Ray & Dorothy West - Iron mountain, MI - Friends - April 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

FF

“ with memories of friends of my youth
you are all in our prayers!
with Love
Frank & Karla

Frank & Karla Suheski - florence, WI - friend - April 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ My memories are from many years ago dating back to the mid 70's when I was first introduced to Mr. Perry. All seemed to go well with only a couple of exceptions.

The first was based on some confusion. It seemed that Mr. Perry just could not understand how a person could live 20+ years of his life and not know what a PASTIE was! This was soon taken care of as I ate my first (home made) pastie at his kitchen table.

The second one I would not understand for several years later. During my time in his home for some reason I was always getting this "look". Hard to describe, never making me uncomfortable, but there it was...the look.

The "look" finally made sense to me only after having a family of my own and in particular...a Step-Daughter! His look, and soon to be MY LOOK is the same look all fathers have, Touch my daughters and.....well you get it right?

All I know is that at a time when I was far from my family and home he made me feel welcome in his.

I am very sorry for your loss and my families sympathy and prayers go out to your entire family.

Ken Moore

Kenneth Moore - Utica, MI - Friend of the family - April 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ In memory of Ray Perry, we send our sympathy to all his family and friends.

I am sure he will be greatly missed by all. We will be thinking of you as you celebrate his long and happy life here on earth and praying for his loved ones during this difficult time.

Don and Betty Swift

Don & Betty Swift - Mason, MI - April 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ To the family, I love you all. Ray was a great man and I'm glad I had the opportunity for him to be part of my life as both family and friend. Heck, he was even my busdriver for awhile! Very happy I was able to visit the last few times home as it was always a treat and very comical :)

-Tuck

Tucker Thoreson - Denver, CO - Adopted Grandson - April 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM