



Ralph A. Miller

July 13, 1928 - September 16, 2015

MILLER, Ralph A.

Portage

Ralph passed away peacefully in his home on Wednesday, September 16, 2015, in Portage, MI. He was born July 13, 1928 in Kalamazoo, the son of Arthur and Mae (Brown) Miller. He graduated from Normal State High in 1947. He played on the Boston Red Sox farm team as a league pitcher and moved to the Chicago White Sox. He gave up pro ball when he went into the service. He served in the U.S. Army from October of 1950 until honorably discharged in January of 1951. He joined the W.E. Upjohn Co. in 1953, retiring after 39 years as a supervisor over the maintenance department. He married his loving wife Rosemary Joy VanHafter on February 27, 1957. He played softball until he was 80 years old. He and his friend Bill Millward organized the slow pitch travel team, which traveled all over the USA, winning the championship in 1987. He umpired for 50 years college, high school and city leagues. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and ball games. He was a generous, spiritual man and donated to many charities. He is survived by one sister, Laura Brock, 4 nieces, Lana Walker of Kalamazoo, Bonnie Sellers of Portage, Norine Calhoun of Galesburg and Valarie Jansen of Kalamazoo and a special friend Jim Kelly. He was preceded in death by his wife Joy; sister, Eleanor Morris; cousin, Don Brown and a special friend, Bill Millward. A memorial service will be held on Monday, September 21, 2015, 2:00pm at Langeland Family Funeral Homes, Portage Chapel, 411 East Centre Ave., where the family will greet friends from 1:30-2:00pm. James Millward will officiate. Interment will be at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to St. Joseph Catholic Church or a charity of one's choice.

****CHARITIES****

St. Joseph Catholic Church
936 Lake St
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

(269) 343-6256

www.stjosephkalamazoo.org/

Charity of Donor's Choice

Events

SEP **Visitation** 01:30PM - 02:00PM

21

Langeland Family Funeral Homes - Portage Chapel
411 East Centre Ave, Portage, MI, US, 49002

SEP **Memorial Service** 02:00PM

21

Langeland Family Funeral Homes - Portage Chapel
411 East Centre Ave, Portage, MI, US, 49002

Comments



“ Very sorry to hear of Ralph's passing he was such a sweet man and always had a big hug for me. He was a dear friend of my mother's Dee Osterling she talked about him often and enjoyed his company. My condolences to the family, thinking of you. Sincerely,
Diane & Mike Secondi

Diane Secondi - September 24 at 01:39 PM



“ A tribute video has been added.

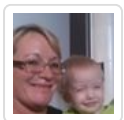


Langeland Family Funeral Homes, Inc. - September 17 at 02:59 PM



“ Uncle Ralph .So many memories you always took the time to spend with us kids. Our winters tabogganing sledding with King. You and Aunt Joy had bunk beds and lots of toys for us to play with when we stayed with you. You took me to the fair grounds taught me how to drive a car. We took our dogs to woods for a good run. we shared our love for our dogs. Two weeks ago we had a good laugh at pictures of us with our red solar cups and our dance moves. God has you in his keeping I have you in my heart.Love you Norine.

norine calhoun - September 20 at 07:27 PM



“ Uncle Ralph was my hero! The list would be to long to let people know all the great things he taught me. He will always be in my heart. Lana Walker

Sheila Russell - September 20 at 01:04 PM



“ 48 files added to the album LifeTributes



Langeland Family Funeral Homes, Inc. - September 17 at 02:50 PM