

Casperson Funeral Home

Raymond P. Hansen

(January 25, 1926 - April 13, 2015)



Raymond Paul Hansen 89, Washington Island, passed away April 13, 2015. He was the ninth of twelve children born at home on the family farm to Jens and Johanna "Josie" Hansen on January 25, 1926. He graduated from Washington Island High School and was immediately drafted into the U.S. Army. He married Barbara Joyce Christensen on April 8, 1948. With the exception of his military service and two years of playing professional baseball, Ray spent his life on Washington Island; first as a commercial fisherman and farmer, then as an employee of the Standard Oil Company and later as owner of that business. Other entrepreneurial ventures included mink farming, insect eradication, caviar production, tree planting and farming, growing and selling plants in his greenhouse, owning and operating a gas station.

Due to his great love for people and the Washington Island community, Ray provided assistance to many Island organizations including Door County Baseball League, Washington Island Little League, American Legion, W. I. Lion's Club, W. I. Fire Department, W. I. Music Festival, W. I. Community Center Committee, Red Barn Park & Programs, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and others. As Barbara, his wife of 67 years often stated; "The only organization Ray doesn't belong to is the Women's Club."

Ray was an avid sports fan, sports fisherman, hunter, party planner, bird watcher, card, pool and cribbage player. He will be deeply missed by his family: wife; Barbara, four sons and two daughters; Douglas (Pam), Donald "Jens," Daniel, Paula (and husband, Jeff McDonald), Richard, and Shirley, two brothers: Theodore (Charlotte) and Franklin, twenty grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and many wonderful nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents: Jens and Josie Hansen, a daughter: Paula Fay, a son: Michael, a great granddaughter: Madison, and nine of his eleven siblings: Lucien "Sonny," Richard, Ardis, James, Sylvia, Muriel, Lucien "Moy," Natalie and Lillian.

A private funeral service will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church with Rev. John Nourse officiating. Burial will follow at the Island Cemetery.

A public celebration of life will be held in honor of Ray Hansen on Saturday, May 23 (Memorial Day Weekend) at 4 p.m. at the Trueblood Performing Arts Center. Through image, word and song, Ray's family will pay tribute to 89 years of life lived well.

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