

OBITUARIES

Edward McNamara Jr.

Edward G. McNamara Jr., 92, of St. Ignace, was a World War II Army veteran who later enjoyed a 42-year career as Mackinac County's Friend of the Court, appointed by Governor G. Mennen Williams. During his law practice, he served as assistant prosecutor, elected prosecuting attorney, and as an assistant to the Mackinac County Public Defender. He received the highest honor of the Boy Scouts, the Honor of Vigil, for his service to scouting and he was known to many as the reenactor portraying Father Marquette during the Black Gown Tree Pageant each Labor Day weekend during the 1960s and '70s in St. Ignace. Mr. McNamara died at his home in Covenant Village in Grand Rapids Saturday, October 11, 2008, after a long illness of Alzheimer's disease. He had moved to Grand Rapids for health reasons after living temporarily in Petoskey.

He was born to Lillie (nee Hagerty) and Edward G. McNamara Sr. August 21, 1916.

Mr. McNamara enrolled at LaSalle High School in St. Ignace in his sophomore year, lettering in football. He took great pride in LaSalle sports, friends recalled, and he used to tell the story of how quickly he sported his lettered jacket as soon as his mother had sewed the letter on for him.

After his sophomore year, he attended Culver Military Academy, a preparatory school in northern Indiana, where he made life-long friends. There, he was involved in rowing and in the Black Horse Troop program.

Mr. McNamara would go on to attend Michigan State College (MSC) and participate in its ROTC program in the fall of 1935.

Mr. McNamara often recalled his memory of attending college during the United Auto Workers strikes in spring of 1937, when he and other students became involved in an effort to put down the strikes.

He was graduated from MSC and fulfilled his ROTC obligation; he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States



Edward McNamara Jr.

Army.

He married Margaret Jane Hammond after they met at MSC. She is the daughter of the late John and Emily Hammond of Flint. The two were married July 5, 1941, while Mr. McNamara was on leave from his post at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Lt. McNamara served in World War II with the 1st Armored Division, and was deployed to North Africa in 1942. Lt. McNamara had been promoted to the rank of captain before receiving his honorable discharge.

After the war, Mr. McNamara continued his education, pursuing a law degree at University of Michigan. He later transferred to University of Detroit and was graduated in 1948. He had also worked as an engine plant worker at Ford Motor Company in Detroit during that time.

He passed the Michigan State Bar exam on his first attempt, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, and began practicing with his father, Edward "Ned" McNamara, back home in St. Ignace.

In 1949, Mr. McNamara was appointed Mackinac County's Friend of the Court by Governor G. Mennen Williams. He held that position until 1990. He was honored by the Michigan Friend of the Court by awarding him as a Life Member for his 42 years of

service.

He practiced law until 1997, when he suffered a stroke. He remained on the bar until 1998. He was recognized for his 50 years as a member of the Michigan Bar Association that year.

Mr. McNamara enjoyed working with Boy Scouts, becoming Scoutmaster for Troop 127 until 1986. In addition to earning the Honor of Vigil, he was also awarded the Silver Beaver, which is presented for distinguished service within a local council.

Mr. McNamara was a member of St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church in St. Ignace, where for more than 40 years he served as an usher almost every Sunday.

He also enjoyed woodworking and remodeling, and, with his wife, he enjoyed traveling throughout the country, but always managed to be home on Memorial Day and Independence Day to participate in the American Legion's honor guard or color guard events.

His wife, Margaret, preceded him in death January 11, 1999.

He is survived by a son and his family, Edward Michael "Mike" and Kay McNamara of Petoskey, and a grandson, Andrew Ryan McNamara of Petoskey.

Friends of Mr. McNamara called at Dodson Funeral Home Tuesday, October 14, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., with parish prayers at 8 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be Wednesday, October 15, at 11 a.m. at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church, with Father Allen Mott officiating. Burial will be in Lakeside Cemetery in St. Ignace.

Pallbearers will be Prentiss "Giz" Brown III, Frank Sperry, Dr. Don McKinnon, Marv Winkelman, Larry Rubin, Dr. Howard Hague, Dr. Herb Hamel, and Judge George Theut.

Memorials may be directed to Culver Academy, Class of 1935, or the Boy Scouts of America, Hiawatha Land, with envelopes available from Dodson Funeral Home of St. Ignace.

Ernest Van Houten



Ernest Van Houten

Valerie and Kristopher, joined the family. He retired from General Motors in 1973, and they moved to their dream home in DeTour Village.

Mr. Van Houten was an avid hunter who bagged eight bears over the years, but his favorite pastime was fishing. Each year, he volunteered to help during the DeTour Salmon Derby. He played the "gut bucket" in the DeTour Kitchen Band for many years.

He is survived by his wife, Elna; two children and their families, Jack and Sue Van Houten and Jeanie Holland, both of Flint; three stepchildren and their families, Kristopher and Milisa Bechtel of Birch Run, Joe and Nancy Ranger of

West Branch, and Valerie and David Michalski of Copemish; 17 grandchildren, Roger, Regina, Rob, Michelle, Lisa, Lori, Gary, Amy, Kris, Clifford, Skylar, Austin, Valanie, Jennifer, Scott, Emily, and Nikki, and 27 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by five half brothers and their families, Roy and Carol Van Houten, Dan and Sandy Van Houten, Mike and Lily Van Houten, Roger and Karen Van Houten, and Bruce Van Houten, all of the Grand Rapids area; and two half sisters, Patricia Van Houten of Connecticut and Nancy Van Houten of Grand Rapids.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Judy Van Houten; a step-son, John Ranger; a sister, Martha Daneen, and a brother, Edward Van Houten.

Visitation was held Monday, October 13, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Tuesday, October 14, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Reamer Galer Funeral Home in Pickford.

Services were Tuesday, October 14, at 1 p.m. at the funeral home with Deacon Charles Krahnke conducting the service. Burial was in Maple Grove Cemetery in DeTour Township.

Memorials may be made to DeTour Passage Historical Museum, P.O. Box 111, DeTour Village, Michigan 49725.

Ernest Jesse Van Houten, 86, of DeTour Village, was an Army Air Corps veteran who worked as a policeman and a volunteer firefighter, and enjoyed a 30-year career with General Motors. Mr. Van Houten died Friday, October 10, 2008, at his home.

He was born July 12, 1922, in Grand Rapids, to Edward and Martha (nee Edwards) Van Houten.

Mr. Van Houten grew up in Grand Rapids. At age 14, he came to the Upper Peninsula during the summers and worked planting trees at Civilian Conservation Corps camps. In 1940, he joined the Army Air Corps, where he served as a gunner night fighter in a Black Widow. Mr. Van Houten narrowly escaped with his life when his hospital tent came under fire while he was having surgery near the front lines.

In 1945, he returned safely to Flint, where he married an army widow with two sons, Joe and John Ranger. They had three more children, Jack, Jeanie, and Judy Van Houten, and then the couple divorced in 1960.

Mr. Van Houten worked as a police officer for 14 years and then at General Motors for 30 years. He was a volunteer firefighter for many years.

In 1966, he married Elna Mae (nee Brimmer), and her children,

John Brawley

John D. Brawley, 86, of Gould City, was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving in the Philippines during World War II. Mr. Brawley died at his home Saturday, October 11, 2008.

He was born March 11, 1922, in Gould City to Dewey and Stella (nee Smith) Brawley and was graduated from the Newton Township School.

Mr. Brawley was a greens keeper at Newberry Golf Course for

many years and was previously employed at the Blaney Park Golf Course and Salter's Sawmill in Gould City.

He enjoyed hunting and hunted deer until he was 84 years old. He also enjoyed painting, drawing, and carving.

Mr. Brawley was preceded in death by his parents, and his sister, Marion Musselman, who died June 3, 2008.

He is survived by a nephew,

Larry Musselman of Marshall, and two nieces, Diane Musselman of Kalamazoo and Lorna Lockton of Marshall.

Graveside services, with veterans honors, will be held at 11 a.m. at Newton Township Cemetery in Gould City Saturday, October 18. The Reverend Al Valentine will officiate.

Messier-Broulliere Funeral Home in Manistique is assisting the family with arrangements.

Crash in Brevort Twp. Claims Life of EUP Woman

A 34-year-old woman died in a single vehicle crash in Brevort Township at approximately 12:25 a.m. Sunday, October 12.

Jacqueline Rae Leapley of Cedarville and Bay Mills, was traveling southbound on M-123 alone when her Ford Explorer ran off the road and rolled. She was pronounced dead at the scene as the result of injuries sustained from the crash.

Michigan State Police of St. Ignace reported she wore her seatbelt, but alcohol may have been a factor. Ground fog also may have contributed to the cause of the crash. The incident was still under investigation by the state police Monday morning, October 13.

Miss Leapley, originally of Brimley, leaves three children. An obituary is printed in this issue.

Responding to the scene were Michigan State Police, St. Ignace City Police, Brevort Township Fire Department, St. Ignace Fire Department, and Allied EMS.

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