



Robert Bob\" Hughey

March 24, 2012

Robert "Little Bob" Hughey, 86 of Goetzville, formerly Mackinac Island and St. Ignace passed away Saturday afternoon, March 24 at the home of his daughter Yvonne Della-Moretta in St. Ignace following a lingering illness. He was born in Detroit on September 19, 1926. His parents were Chester and Eunice (Stokes) Hughey. He came to Mackinac Island in 1943 with few dollars in his pocket and worked for the Grand Hotel as night watchman. He also was a cook for other restaurants, and started the famous "Little Bobs" restaurant in 1948, which was a stopping spot for families and famous people for nearly 50 years. He started the business with seven dollars and a rented building and food borrowed from others, building the business over the years to employ nearly 60 locals. He was favorable to local islanders and family for help. He served 2 hitchhikes in the U.S. Army, and was the chef for General McArthur's Headquarters in Japan, with 60 Japanese cooks under him. He was one of the organizers of the Lilac Festival in 1949, and was Grand Marshall in 2008. He is known as one of Mackinac Island's most colorful Entrepreneurs. He served as Mayor in 1960 after a term as elected school board member and city council member. He also went to Arizona and was a chef for a Country Club and a mining camp serving 2200 meals a day. After closing the Little Bobs restaurant on the Island, he built the Frontier Restaurant on Mackinac Trail and it operated for 10 years, serving "Little Bob" style food with many family members as employees. He continued to work until in his 80's. He has written a book which is nearly published, and will tell the tale of business on

the island and it's politics.

On December 27, 1952 he married Patricia Brenzie at St. Stanislaus Church in Goetzville, and she survives. Also his family; Duane and Cindy Hughey, St. Ignace; Kevin and Rene Hughey, Goetzville; Darwin and Martha Hughey, St. Ignace; Yvonne and Tom Della-Moretta, St. Ignace; brothers, Don and Phyllis Hughey, Harbor Springs; Arvin and Beth Hughey, in Florida; Chester and Marie Hughey, Charlevoix; sisters, Neoma Brown, Indiana; Lorraine Kingma, Charlevoix; Wyoma VandeCeveye, Perkins, MI; Bonnie and Ron Holck, Birch Run; Sharon and Walker Whelan, in CA.;; Dawn Kirksey in Mexico; 10 grand children and 4 great grandchildren. Also 2 sisters in law, Marilyn and Karen Hughey. he was preceeded in death by brothers, Neil and Carlton and 5 grandsons, and a best friend Billy Pickford.

At his request cremation has taken place. No services will be held. Memorials may be directed to a charity of choice. Dodson Funeral Home, St. Ignace assisted the family with arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Bob\'' Hughey*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Robert Bob\'' Hughey*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Robert Bob\'' Hughey*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Dear Pat and the whole Hughey family, i am so sorry for your loss. I worked for Little Bob on the island for 6 summers to help with college at NMU. He was a great boss and I loved his whole family! It was a great experience and the Island and Little Bob's will always have a special place in my heart! One of the things I tell people about Bob, now 50 yrs later, is he never wanted a customer to go away unhappy with the food or service! His food was always top quality and amazing but we would get some complaints and he always tried to make things right for his customers! And that was one of the keys to his success! He always treated his workers with respect! He always wanted the best for his workers and customers. Whenever I go to my beloved Mackinac Island, I will always think of Little Bob's Restaurant and thank Bob for giving me a great job and example of how to live. I love and appreciate his whole family! God bless you!*

Ruthanne Wright Price - October 05, 2020 at 03:48 PM

LW

“ I remember a very kind soft spoken man...he will be missed!

Luci A. Wallace - March 28, 2012 at 10:46 AM

DK

“ I don't get back to Michigan often, but I am going to miss Bob, when I get there. I hope he enjoyed the poem I wrote him. Always in my prayers!

Dawn Kirksey - March 26, 2012 at 08:04 PM

DG

“ Our thoughts are with you Kevin & family !

Dennis Goodwin - March 26, 2012 at 07:22 PM

BM

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. I'll always remember him as a kind gentleman who always said "hi" to the people he met. You just knew his smile was genuine. How I would have loved sitting down with him and a tape recorder and be able to hear his memories. May God welcome him home and give him peace.

Beverly McKenzie - March 26, 2012 at 02:00 PM

AT

“ I will miss "Little Bob". He always had a little smile whenever I saw him and he always took the time to ask how I was doing and how my day was going. I can't even imagine the stories your family has heard over the years--how lucky you were! So sorry for your loss.

Andrea Tamlyn - March 26, 2012 at 06:57 AM