



## Donald Dale Payea, Sr.

January 14, 1932 - May 15, 2012

Donald D. Payea, Sr., age 80, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan passed away Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at Tendercare Nursing Home. Donald was born in Standish, Michigan on January 14, 1932, the son of the late James and Mildred (Barnes) Payea. He graduated from Arenac Eastern High School with the class of 1950. He served his country in the United States Navy during the Korean War beginning in 1951. He served on the USS Harry F. Bauer, which was a DM26 based out of Charleston, SC. On October 17, 1952, he married Opal Smith at Arenac Church in Standish, Michigan and after being discharged from the Navy in December 1954, they settled in Lapeer, Michigan. He retired from the State of Michigan, where he worked as an aide in the mental health field. In 2001, they moved to Sault Ste. Marie. Donald loved gardening and fishing. Donald is survived by his wife: Opal Payea; three children: Donald (Melody) Payea, Jr., Dennis (Jeanne) Payea, and Janet (Tony) Douglas; four siblings: Donna (Chuck) Rittenberg, Jimmy (Adeline) Payea, Jean Giffer, and Bill (Cheryl) Payea; four grandchildren: Eric (Erica) Payea, Sarah (Nick) Douglas, James Payea, and Jenna Payea; and many great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, two grandsons: Travis Payea and Jacob Douglas; and four siblings: Betty, Emma, Ronny, and Joanne. No public services will be held. Cremation has taken place. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to Hospice of the EUP. The family would like to say "Thank You" to the staff at Tendercare for all of their help.



# Tribute Wall

JM

“ Don and Opal were our good neighbors for many years. Our children grew up together. They were the kind people that stayed out of other's business, nodded goodmorning at the mailbox, and came to your aide if it looked like you needed help. My husband and Don loved feeding the turkeys and took turns buying the seeds to throw for them in winter. Opal took me to my first and only auction and let me borrow her clothes line when we first moved in, until we could put up our own. The evening before they moved away, Jim and I walked over to say goodbye and the moment I saw them I began to cry. We all did. It was the end of a special friendship and we all knew it. Rest in peace Don and save a place for us "next door.”

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**Jim & Janet McMillan** - May 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM