



Francis "Tank" Mayer

March 21, 1940 - March 17, 2017

Soo I-500 Legend Francis "Tank" Mayer, age 76, of Rudyard, Michigan passed away Friday evening, March 17, 2017 at his home surrounded by his wife Connie and their six children and grandchildren.

Tank was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on March 21, 1940, the son of the late Isidore and Alma (Paquette) Mayer. He graduated from Rudyard High School with the class of 1959. On June 23, 1962, he married Connie Mae Furlott at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church in St. Ignace, Michigan. He was a member of the Michigan Regional Carpenters Union Local #202, St. Joseph Catholic Church, and the Knights of Columbus Council #10777. Tank loved going out to hunting camp. He'd plant oats in hopes of seeing that next big deer. He also enjoyed working on the farm, singing in the St. Joseph Choir, and volunteering for more than 20 years as an ambulance driver. He was an I-500 legend, with over 6,783 miles on the oval track and the first person to go over 65 mph and the first person to have two laps at 80 mph and the founder of Mayer Racing #9, which was also known as Go Til She Blows Racing.

Tank is survived by his wife: Connie Mayer of Rudyard, MI; three daughters: Colette (Andy) Cozort, Carrie Mayer, and Michelle (Ron) Coffey all of Rudyard, MI; and three sons: Faron "Fud" (Natalee) Mayer of Mackinac Island, MI, Anthony "Eep" (Dena) Mayer of Rudyard, MI, and Aaron (Katie) Mayer of Sault Ste. Marie, MI; 19 grandchildren: Drew, Jayden, Lane, Mandy, Brittany, Caleb, Brandon, Trevor, Cody, Jason, Ronnie, Kylie, Jared, Shane,

Karlee, Landen, Levi, Ava, and Grace; and four great grandchildren. He is also survived by three sisters: Sister Mary Alma Mayer of Milwaukee, WI, Katherine Coffman of Mesa, AZ, and Janet (Bob) Wieber of Houghton, MI, and two brothers: James (Marion) Mayer of Milwaukee, WI and Rolland (Joanne) Mayer of Sault Ste. Marie, MI. Many nieces and nephews.

Tank was preceded in death by his son: Francis "Fran" Mayer; his parents Isidore & Alma, two sisters; Lillian and Theresa, and six brothers; Orel, Little Francis, Raymond, Lawrence, Paul and Robert and his in-laws; Levi and Florence Furlott.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 3:00 PM on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rudyard with Father Edward Baafi as celebrant. Friends may call at the church that day from 12:00 noon until the time of the Mass. A Luncheon will follow at the Rudyard Community Center. Burial will be at North Rudyard Cemetery later this spring.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to Hospice of the EUP.

Tribute Wall

RR

“ I believe our salesman for Ted Caffey and later Roe Chevrolet at 719 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan---Leo Paquette--was "Tanks" uncle-- good Frenchmen who helped develop enthusiasm for the concept I had for the I-500 Race--when others felt its was impossible. Thanks and best wishes to all. Ross N. Roe - --Ross - -541-476-7251--would love to hear from any of the family.

Ross N. Roe - March 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ Good by Uncle Francis, you will always be in my memories and many others also. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of the family. May peace find us all. Alan and Alayna.

Alan Paavola - March 22, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Uncle Francis will be greatly missed, I have memories of skating with him and aunt Connie when I was young in St. Ignatius and working on the farm with them when I was young, very sad. Dennis

Dennis and Rose Mayer - March 22, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ To the family remember that those we love don't go away they are always near, however now they are just resting in the hands of the Angels.

Chad socolovitch - March 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ *Deepest condolences to the family. Praying his the memories of his remarkable legacy will carry you all until you see him again!*

Anita (Sherman) Mosher - March 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ *May the Lord be with you all during this difficult time and may He give you strength to endure the pain of your loss. Uncle Francis is now in peace with the Lord and with his Mother, Father, Son and the Siblings that have gone before him. We offer our deepest condolences and sympathy. With Love Always from the Mayer's in California (Brunilda, Raymond (Jr.), Henry, Gregory, Melissa and Colette).*

Gregory P. Mayer - March 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ *I was so sorry to hear of Tanks passing. He was a great man. Prayers to the family at this difficult time.*

Ann Folkersma - March 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ *Dear Connie and family, I am so sorry for your loss. I am glad I got to see you last summer. You are in my prayers.*

Annette Lang - March 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ *Condolences to the Mayer family*

Michael Allison - March 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ Aunt Connie and Colette and kids ~~ we're so sorry to hear of Uncle Francis's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time and in the coming days, and we know he was surrounded by love up until the end here and forever in heaven. I'm sorry to miss the funeral and celebration of his life, but please know we're there in spirit. We love you all!

Jill, Jimmy, Cassidy, TJ, Ally, Sam, Ben, and Nick - March 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ Anthony, Arron and Family, Thinking of you, keeping you in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. We have many great memories we shared with you boys and Tank around the race track 🏁💕

Jerry and Marny Artuso - March 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ Tank was a good man. I have good memories of him in Ag. class in high school. Sincere condolences. Gary

Gary Salo - March 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ RIP Tank, Go Till She Blows in Heaven.

Jeff & Cheryl Paquette - March 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ Our thought are with the Mayer family, sending love and strength in this time of loss

Rick Benson - March 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *My sincerest condolences to the whole family. Francis will be missed!*

Laurie Moran - March 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM