



Fredric Massena

November 9, 1924 - June 5, 2015

Fredric Massena, age 90, of Cedarville, Michigan, died peacefully on June 5, 2015 at Cedar Cove in Cedarville. He was born November 9, 1924 in Washington, DC to Frederick Foster Swallow and Martha A. (Hazzard) Swallow.

Fredric was orphaned during the depression and his first opportunity to attend school was the last two months of third grade in Illinois. He was forever grateful to his case worker Miss Price and his teacher Miss Robinson who became the center of his world. They loaded him up with books to read during summer vacation including the book "Tom Swift and his Aeroplane" which ignited Fred's passion for flying and his dream of becoming an airplane pilot. Fred felt that if you don't have a passion for something and you don't have dreams, you don't have much of a life. Fred's case worker found him a loving home with his very own bed in his very own room and an unused workshop which enabled him to become a serious airplane modeler. His adoptive parents, Roy and Mabel Massena allowed him to dream and provided him tools to achieve those dreams. He grew up in the Golden Age of Aviation and rode the wave of flying history. In 1942, after three years of college, Fred signed up for the Naval Aviation Cadet program where he earned his Navy Wings of Gold. World War II ended and Fred transferred to the U.S. Marine Corps where he continued flight training and flying. He later served with the U.S. Army National Guard. In all, Fred served his country for 20 years.

Fred was an astute businessman who participated in various successful businesses and investments over the years. In the early 1980's, Fred moved to Cedarville where he enjoyed living simply and appreciating the nature around him. He continued flying but also enjoyed golfing, amateur radio, sailing, kayaking, cross-country skiing, and philanthropy. He and his dear friend Vesta B. Knuth enjoyed dancing and attending athletic events and fundraisers at area schools.

Fred is survived by his adopted son, Richard Wallace (wife, Shelly) Paulsen of Spokane, Washington; daughters, Pamela L. (husband, James L.) Knight of Bainbridge Island, Washington, and Patricia Ann (husband, David J.) Krueger of Davis, California; son, Roy Phillip (wife, Vickie L. McConnell) Massena of Spokane; grandchildren, Anthony L. Mattingly, Tyler M. Larsen, Morgan Wagner Massena, Hans Fredric Greiner, Megan Katrina (Massena) Koontz, Eric Preston Greiner, and Molly Miranda Massena; and great grandson, Arlin Jack Larsen.

Fred was preceded in death by his sister, Patricia S. (Swallow) Hord; his former spouse, Betty Lucille (Frobish) Massena; and his longtime companion, Vesta B. Knuth.

Services will be held Wednesday, June 10 at R. Galer Funeral Home, 24549 S. M-129 in Pickford, Michigan. A gathering time will start at 6:00 P.M. followed by a memorial service at 7:00 P.M.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Les Cheneaux Community Schools Athletic Department, P.O. Box 366, Cedarville, MI 49719.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

JUN 10. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Pickford
24549 S. M-129
Pickford, MI 49774
(906) 647-3400
flfh@familylifefh.com
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

Memorial Service

JUN 10. 7:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Pickford
24549 S. M-129
Pickford, MI 49774
(906) 647-3400
flfh@familylifefh.com
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Fredric Massena*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Fredric Massena*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Fredric Massena*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Dear Massena Family and Friends,
I wasn't privileged with the remarkable acquaintance of Mr. Massena as you were, but it saddens me to read of your tremendous loss. Please accept my family's sincerest condolences. It brings great comfort and hope to many when they read of The Almighty God and Creator's promise to rid humans of death, pain, sorrow, and outcry in his Word The Bible . May you all have peace.*

Greene Family - June 15, 2015 at 09:48 AM

SA

“ Fred was always a good friend to myself and my family. I considered Fred my consultant in business and life. He once asked me if I knew how to make a small fortune in the woods business? I said no, his answer was to start with a large one. We enjoyed time together whenever we caught-up. Even if it was just sitting with him when he was eating at the Cove. We are sorry we can not make Fred's service, but we are at Mayo's with our son Wade. Steve and Tami Autore

Steve Autore - June 08, 2015 at 07:30 PM



Thank you so much for your kind words. Steve, during my visits to the UP my Father talked of you often. In the "old days" we would get diesel fuel for his blue truck "Buster" at your facility on 129 and he shared how the two of you talked business. He loved to boast of your success. I pray your trip to Mayo resulted in positive results. Pam Knight

Pam Knight - June 11, 2015 at 08:17 PM

KW

So sorry to hear of Fred's passing. He was a very kind man, and I enjoyed knowing him. He visited a few times and I was able to take Morgan, Megan and Molly to visit him in Cedarville and a 25mi bike ride. I remember he was so excited to have his grandchildren visit and had a huge pile of sand delivered to his beach for the kids to play with including sand shovels and buckets. We enjoyed doing all sorts of things with him and Vesta. I sorry for the loss. Rest in Peace Fred!

Katie Wagner - August 03, 2015 at 03:22 PM

KT

Fred used to follow me around at the Western Amateur golf tournament and we became buddies! He kept up with me all through college and unfortunately we didn't stay as connected as I wish. He was a really great guy and super sweet and I thought the world of him.

Kyle Thompson

Kyle Thompson - August 29, 2018 at 10:02 PM