



Harlan Henry Lamb

April 23, 1925 - May 19, 2020

Harlan Henry Lamb passed away peacefully at his home in Pickford, MI on May 19, 2020, under the devoted care of his family and McLaren Hospice of Cheboygan. He was 95 years old.

Harlan was born in Rogers City, MI on April 23, 1925, the second child and eldest son of Leonard and Laura (Mielke) Lamb. He was raised on the family farm along with his seven siblings. As Harlan described it in a letter to his brother, Neil, “they were great years.” Among others, the Lamb household included his grandfather, Henry, who had emigrated from Ireland in 1895 and established the farm. Harlan was strongly influenced by his grandfather. According to Harlan, “What Grandpa liked to do, he did well. If you ever turned the grindstone while he sharpened his axe or helped him skid firewood, you learned how to do a job exactly as the boss wanted it done. He was a master at getting – and keeping – your attention.” To those who knew Harlan, it is easy to see that the Irish apple didn’t fall far from the tree.

Life changed for Harlan, like it did for everyone, after Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941. As he wrote in that same letter to his brother, “Everything changed after that. People in jobs that were declared essential were forced to stay in them. Farming was declared a critical job. During the summer of 1942 I decided I just had to join the Navy. I was afraid I would be frozen on the farm and miss taking part in a great adventure. I told Dad about my plan just prior to the start of school, my senior year. I plowed up a storm the next few weeks

with the old 10-20 International. About the middle of October, I went to Alpena and started the process of joining the Navy. There were some tense moments with Mom when she realized I was serious about this. She and Dad had to sign papers to allow it because I was only seventeen. She held tough for two very long days but then, after making it clear she didn't agree with what was happening, she signed the papers." Harlan was inducted into the U.S. Navy on November 2, 1942. He served aboard an escort carrier in the Pacific, the USS Nehenta Bay, as gunner and radioman in a torpedo bomber. He was discharged from the Navy in February, 1946. Harlan never lost his love of flying and achieved a lifelong goal when he earned his private pilot license in 1977.

Harlan married Ruth Paull on June 21, 1947 in Hawks, MI. They welcomed twin sons, Jeff and Mike, the next year. In the eighteen years that followed, eight more children were born. In 1953, the family moved to the Upper Peninsula where Harlan worked on the construction of U.S. Steel's new limestone quarry and mill in Cedarville. Harlan proudly continued his employment with U.S. Steel until his retirement in 1986. Although he enjoyed the challenges of his career, Harlan was a farmer at heart and he was eager to return to that life and share it with his children. In 1963, he and Ruth purchased a farm southeast of Pickford. For the next ten years, family life revolved around the busy routines of a dairy farm. Although they moved on in the seventies, Harlan and Ruth returned to farm life – this time west of Pickford – for their retirement years. Harlan spent many of those years working with sons Mike and Dave on their dairy farms and tending livestock of his own. Harlan was rarely idle. He worked hard and loved to work – at whatever task was at hand. Like most men of his generation, he was used to doing things himself and rarely hired work done. It seemed he could build, fix, and do just about anything – at least in the eyes of his kids and grandkids. He taught himself to use a computer and was eager to try new technology of every kind. An avid beekeeper, Harlan was fascinated by the intricacies of the

hive – and very impressed by the work ethic of the bees. “Honey day” was one of his favorites as family and friends gathered to help with the annual honey harvest. He was a dedicated fan of Michigan State basketball and an active member of Bethel Lutheran Church in Cedarville.

Throughout his married life, Harlan remained keenly focused on his family. He unfailingly provided for his large brood and did his best to meet the various needs that ten children presented. The results were not always perfect, but those occasions served as their own teaching moments. His priorities were God, country, and family and he lived a life that reflected those priorities. By his actions, he taught his family the things he valued: give a day’s work for a day’s pay, vote, never stop learning and never give up. He also taught his kids other things, with varying degrees of success. Things like how to tie a bowline knot (the rabbit goes around the tree) and how to drive a tractor. His hayfield signals were famous – and largely incomprehensible to most of his crew. He maintained that dawn was the best part of the day and that there was always time to get an ice cream bar after church. He enjoyed Irish music, the daily news, and a spirited debate. With Harlan at its head, there were countless meals around the family table where information was shared and opinions voiced on a wide variety of topics. It is impossible to quantify the value that has been derived through these many years of sitting down around that table to eat and converse in a respectful and open (if occasionally loud and very animated) way. The connections forged by Harlan – and Ruth – kept their large clan close to them and to each other, a legacy that will continue to be passed to the generations to come.

The Lamb family has now bid farewell to both of their parents/grandparents. On the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary in 1997, their eldest son, Jeff, expressed sentiments that are still true today. He wrote, “The driving force behind Mom & Dad has always been the family...We thank the Lord for

allowing us to have these two as parents and grandparents and for their blessing and guidance to us all.”

Harlan was preceded in death by his wife of 70 years, Ruth (Paull) Lamb, who passed away on May 25, 2018. He is survived by their ten children: Jeffrey (Carol) Lamb of Pickford, Michael Lamb of Lansing, MI, David (Debra) Lamb of Pickford, Elizabeth (Bill) Crawford of Frankfort, MI, Thomas (Patti) Lamb of Pickford, Katherine (Keith) Krahnke of Pickford, Matthew (Alison) Lamb of Pickford, Peter (Marni) Lamb of Pickford, Patricia Lamb of Pickford, and Joanna (Glen) Magrane of Menominee, MI; twenty-five-grandchildren, and thirty-five great-grandchildren, will carry on Harlan’s legacy. They include: Patrick (Kim) Lamb, Laura (Jason) Kvam, Patrisio (Devona) Lamb, Sarah (Todd) Hipps, Emily (Danny) Tomasi, Kevin Crawford, Jeffrey (Nicole Vaillant) Crawford, Erica (Meaghan Roeters) Crawford, Adam (Erin Seiler) Crawford, Robert (Kara) Lamb, Christopher (April) Lamb, Mark (Misty Shaw) Lamb, Jason (Sara) Krahnke, Melissa Krahnke, Andrew (Devon Lewis) Krahnke, Lindsay (Micah) Brindley, Meredith (Gene) Korn, Matthew (Erin) Lamb Jr., Sean Lamb, and Joseph, Jacob, Megan, Anna, Laura and Rachel Magrane; siblings, Alger (Janet) Lamb of Rogers City, MI and Doris Bernlohr of Kalamazoo, MI. Also surviving are sisters-in-law, Jerry Lamb of Holland, MI, Faye Lamb of Rogers City, MI and Kathleen Paull Schaedig Wagner (Ralph) of Hawks, MI.

Harlan was preceded in death by his parents; his daughter-in-law, Georgia (Sims) Lamb, and his siblings, Marion Patterson, Hertha Stiansen, Leonard Lamb, Jr., Byron Lamb, and Neil Lamb.

The family wishes to thank all those who provided care to Harlan and supported the family’s efforts to do the same: Dr. Robert Mackie and the staff of Riverside Medical Associates; Tammy Kovacs (“Cami” to Harlan), Social Worker at Evergreen Nursing Center in St. Ignace, and the staff of that facility; and McLaren Hospice, especially Kim Lamb, RN. The efforts of all were and

are deeply appreciated by the Lamb family.

A private funeral is planned with burial in Cottle Cemetery in Marquette Township, Pickford.

Memorials may be directed to Bethel Lutheran Church in Cedarville, Michigan.

R. Galer Funeral Home is assisting the family. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.rgalerfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Cottle Cemetery

5431 E Townline Road
Pickford, MI 49774

Tribute Wall



“ *Harlan Henry Lamb*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Harlan Henry Lamb*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Harlan Henry Lamb*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Searching for memories from my stay as a foreign exchange student by the Harlan Lamb family i 1972 I came over the obituary of my «dad» Harlan. He was the father of family of many children. By the early seventies a couple had left the nest. However, instead of slowing down Ruth and Harlan generously opened their home to me - a european teenager leaving home for the first time. In addition to wellcoming me they also included a foster child in the family. I remember Harlan and his family as extremly generous and caring. Rest in peace, Harlan.*

Erik Rokkones, Norway



Erik Rokkones - March 25, 2022 at 07:03 PM

KK

Hello Erik, this is Kathy..one of the many children of Harlan & Ruth. It is wonderful to hear from you. We too remember fondly your stay with us. My email address is: clancyk@centurytel.net if you would like to catch up. Our mom passed away on May 25, 2018. Seven of the 10 kids & their families live in Pickford. We would love to hear how you are doing. We hope you are well & that we can connect for future communication.

Kathy Krahnke - June 23, 2022 at 09:22 AM

JS

“ Harlan was a good friend of my Father Earl Schaefer. They worked together at the Quarry. Dad highly respected Harlans work ethics, morals and knowlage. Dad would also use Harlans life stories in examples in raising me. He was good man. God rest his soul.

Jack Schaefer - May 23, 2020 at 08:18 AM

JH

“ My thoughts are with all of the Lamb family members. I had the privilege of working with Harlan at the Cedarville Operation, and saw the work ethic he has instilled in Jeff, Dave, Tom, and Matt. Restaurant in Peace Harlan.

John Houk - May 21, 2020 at 11:07 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Harlan Henry Lamb.



May 21, 2020 at 10:48 PM

GM

“ *To all,
We were privileged to meet and share both your Dad and Mom at Bethel. Harlan was such a warm and giving person. He will be missed in the pew in front of us.
Peace be with you.
Joel and Gail*

Gail Mars - May 21, 2020 at 12:12 PM



“ *Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Harlan Henry Lamb.*



May 21, 2020 at 11:30 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Harlan Henry Lamb.*



May 20, 2020 at 04:59 PM