



Howard Ray Messenger

June 2, 1920 - April 9, 2016

Howard Ray Messenger, 95, of Drummond Island, Michigan, died on April 9, 2016 at his home. He was born on June 2, 1920 in Perry, Michigan to Andrew L. and Birdie (Van Sickle) Messenger.

Howard grew up in Perry and graduated from Perry High School. He attended Michigan Normal College and was being recruited by the NBA when he was drafted into the Army. He went to The University of Michigan after the war and finished his degree. He went to work at Linden High School where he met Donna Kimball, who was the girls' softball coach. They married on July 19, 1952, settled in Linden, Michigan and began their family. Howard worked as a principal and superintendent before going to work for McFadden Corporation who provided equipment and supplies in the education industry. He worked his way up in McFadden and bought the company in 1970. He sold the business and retired in 1988. They wintered in Apollo Beach, Florida and summered on Drummond Island. Donna died in 1992 and two years later, Howard reunited with his high school sweetheart, Barbara Suhr. They were together for fourteen years before Howard's health brought him back to Drummond Island to stay with his son.

Howard is survived by his son, Kim (Donna) Messenger of Drummond Island; grandchildren, Somer Messenger, Kim Messenger II, Kyle (Morgan Harsin) Messenger, and Gretchean (Bob) Miller; great grandchildren, Ethan Ray

Messenger and Christopher Miller; and brother, Dr. A.L. Messenger of Riverdale, Michigan.

Howard is preceded in death by his wife, Donna Messenger; son, Howard R. "Champ" Messenger II; and sister, Betty Hoffman.

Private family services will be at a later date.

Interment will be at Crestwood Memorial Cemetery in Grand Blanc, Michigan, in Summer 2016.

Tribute Wall



“ *Howard Ray Messenger*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Howard Ray Messenger*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Howard Ray Messenger*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *You will be missed Howard. Now you are with Donna, Champ, Betty and your parents. R.I.P.*

donna - April 15, 2016 at 03:03 PM