



John Garton Nikkari

May 21, 1924 - December 10, 2014

John Garton Nikkari of Ann Arbor Michigan passed away December 10, 2014. He was 90 years old. He was the kindest and gentlest of souls. John was born May 21, 1924 in Sebeka, Minnesota. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1944 and served in the Philippine Islands campaign. After the Army John worked at Newberry State Hospital as a Psychiatric Attendant Nurse. It was there he met Irene White. He left his job in Newberry to pursue his education at Hackley Hospital School of Nursing in Muskegon Michigan. It was during this time, in 1955, John and Irene were married. In 1957 John became the first man to graduate from the Hackley nursing program. He then continued his education at Michigan State University where, in 1959, once again, John was the first male to graduate with a BS in Nursing. Ultimately, he earned a Master of Science Nursing from Wayne State University and a PhD in Education from the University of Michigan. Throughout his career, John held various positions including Assistant Director of Nursing and Director of Nursing and Associate Professor of Nursing at U of M and Eastern Michigan University. John was preceded in death by his parents Mathias E. and Edla F. Nikkari, brother Mathias "Matt" and two sisters, Joyce Josephson and Audrey Lyyski as well as his beloved Irene. He will be missed by his many nieces and nephews. Arrangements have been made through Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. A future memorial service is planned. John will be laid to rest beside Irene at Riverside Cemetery in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Online condolences may be left at www.clarkbaileynewh

ouse.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *John Garton Nikkari*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *John Garton Nikkari*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *John Garton Nikkari*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *I just found out about John's death. I worked with him in the Department of Nursing at Eastern Michigan University. Although I haven't seen him in many years, I remember him with fond memories. He was a wonderful person and will be missed. I'm so glad to have known him. My condolences to the family.*

Margie Powers - December 23, 2014 at 12:00 AM