



## John Owaski

May 15, 1922 - December 31, 2014

John Owaski, 92 years old, returned to the Lord December 31, 2014. He had been in and out of hospitals since November but was able to spend his last Christmas week at home in the Sault with his family. Mr. Owaski was born May 15, 1922, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. He lived most of his life in the Algonquin area of the Sault. He was the 7th of eight children born to Polish immigrants Stanislaus and Mary (Banach) Orchowski. He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, and four sisters. Surviving are his wife, Leona, daughter, Gloria Owaski, and son, Glenn Owaski (Judy), five grandchildren: Nicole Pavlat (Kevin), Stacey Bullman (Dave), Jessica Owaski (Andy), Leanne Owaski, and Shawn Owaski (Robyn), and 10 great grandchildren: Alyssa Pavlat, Dustin Bullman, Cameron Pavlat, Mackenzie Aikens, Kayla Bullman, Kylee Pavlat, Kayden Owaski, Andrew Aikens, Riley Owaski, and Breigh Aikens, and an entire family of loving nieces and nephews. Surviving also are his Texas inlaws: Arnold Johnson, Carol Galow, Mason and Edith Galow, and Ruth and Lewis Stephenson. Also to be recognized is Mr Owaski's longtime friend and hunting partner Mr. Bob Carlson of Lone Acre Hunting Camp. Mr. Owaski was a gifted carpenter and builder by trade. He referred to himself as the "pusher" on a job. Mr. Owaski started his working career early in life. When he was 14 he spent the summer helping to dig out the basement of the old Nativity Church for \$18 a week. That same year he went to live with a family in Stalwart that had a farm and grew potatoes. He started working at the Tannery when he was 17; he buffed

leather - 6 hour 40 minute shifts with a 20 minute lunch break. He spent a year in Ironwood, Michigan, learning sheet metal work under the National Youth Administration. He hitchhiked home once during that year. Mr. Owaski enlisted in the service when WWII broke out and served in the U.S. Army from November 1942 to November 1946. He reenlisted in the Michigan reserve from 1946 -1949. He served stateside during the war and was a Sergeant in the Military Police Battalion. One of his main responsibilities during his military service was to accompany the body of a fallen serviceman home and provide an honored military funeral. Mr. Owaski met his wife, Leona, while stationed in San Antonio, Texas. They were married January 15, 1947. After retirement, they spent the winter months with their Texas family and Up North after the snow melted. Mr. Owaski loved hunting and fishing and life in all its simplicity. He liked to refer to himself as "Johnnie O." Mr. Owaski had the opportunity to participate in an Honor Flight to Washington D.C. in Sept. 2013. He truly was part of the Greatest Generation. Visitation will be held from 5:00 until 8:00 PM on Monday, January 5, 2015 at C.S. Mulder Funeral Home. A funeral service will be held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at Immanuel Lutheran Church with Pastor Jeff Grundmeier officiating. Friends may call at the church from 9:00 AM until the time of the service. Burial will be at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to Immanuel Lutheran Church or Hospice of the EUP.

# Tribute Wall

BI

“ *What a beautiful obituary. He had quite an interesting life and was quite a man. May your memories, family, friends and faith give you peace.*

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**Bill and Linda Ison** - January 06, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ *To the Owaski family, especially Gloria, My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time of your father's passing from this life to his heavenly home. I am so glad to have met your father a couple of times and I remember his warm welcome and the glint of humor in his eyes. With love and friendship, Julie Dennison (part of Gloria's bicycle group, "The Pumpers")*

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**Julie Dennison** - January 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

WW

“ *You will be missed Uncle John....*

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**Willie and Terry Wahl** - January 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BO

“ *Remembering sitting out in the back yard visiting with Uncle John. We would catch up on each other's news and then just sit back and relax. I looked forward to those times each time we traveled up to the Soo. He and Aunt Leona always welcomed us to their home when we went up to visit. Playing cards after dinner was great fun. Uncle John usually won the game. Don't know how he managed to do that, but he did. His presence will be missed, but our memories will last until we die. God's peace to Aunt Leona, Gloria, Glen and families. Love from, Bob and Karen*

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**Bob and Karen Owaski** - January 03, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ Uncle John was an inspiration to us all. He and Aunt Leona have always been the solid rock for our families. I remember as a small child Uncle John built us brand new cupboards, so beautiful. I remember, too, how he and Aunt Leona took care of his parents, and I remember how he and Aunt Leona cared for my dad after my dad's accident. Uncle John loved to play cards, especially cribbage. Each year at our reunion we have a cribbage tournament in honor of Uncle John. I know his name has been on that trophy many times. It was fun at our reunion afterglow to relax and sit and listen to Uncle John tell us stories from his past and his military days. Uncle John always had a loving twinkle in his eye, always calling us by name. He will surely be missed. Praying that sweet memories recalled will bring peace and calm to Aunt Leona and all the family. Love and hugs to all.

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**Peggy Adelberg** - January 03, 2015 at 12:00 AM

VP

“ What a wonderful man you are Uncle John, you will be sadly missed. Your hugs are better than any in the world. Rest in peace.

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**Vicki Parker Petty** - January 03, 2015 at 12:00 AM