



John M Vournakis

March 7, 1930 - December 2, 2019

John M. Vournakis passed away unexpectedly at the age of 89 in his home on December 2, 2019. John was born March 7, 1930 in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to Michael and Helen Vournakis. After completing high school, John worked as a guard for the Corps. of Engineers before joining the Army and serving in the Korean War. In 1955 John began his 38year career as a Great Lakes sailor. Throughout his career, John was a watchman on several Great Lakes freighters, including the maiden voyage of the Roger Blough, making him a plank owner. As a watchman, he was able to develop his skills and a lifelong dedication and passion for photographing freighters, and later in his life, trains. He was a familiar sight in the Soo, and was often seen riding his bike on his way to photograph the many ships and trains passing through the area. In 2015 John was recognized by the Detroit Marine Historical Society as Historian of the Year. John is survived by his sister Efthimia (Vournakis) Mente and his niece Suzanna McArdle. He is also survived by his great niece Mavis McArdle and several cousins, including Nick Lambros of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. John had many friends, in particular Captain John Wellington of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

John is predeceased by his mother Helen Vournakis and father Michael Vournakis. He is also predeceased by his brother-in-law Bernard Mente and his nephew Michael Mente.

Visitation will be held Saturday December 14th from 12:00pm until 1:00pm at St. George Greek Church in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan with service to follow at 1:00pm. John's final resting place will be at Riverside Cemetery. His family asks that any memorial contributions be made to St. George Greek Church, 511 Court St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. John was loved by his family. Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be left at www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com

Tribute Wall



“ *John M Vournakis*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *John M Vournakis*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *John M Vournakis*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *John M Vournakis*

May 15, 2020 at 03:17 PM