



Joseph "Joe" Menard

October 30, 1935 - June 7, 2020

Joseph Marvin "Joe" Menard, aged 84, of Sugar Island, Mich., passed away on June 7, 2020, at his home. Joe was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on Oct. 30, 1935, to the late Louis and Rose (nee Moyette) Menard.

He served in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War. Joe married Rose Marie Handziak on April 30, 1960.

He worked as a dredge man, as well as on the maintenance crew with the Mackinaw Bridge Authority and retired from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Waterways Commission. He also owned and operated an excavation company on Sugar Island.

He was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, American Legion Post 3, VFW Post 3676, Loyal Order of Moose Lodge 717, and the Michigan Fiddlers Association.

Joe was appointed as the first fire chief on Sugar Island and was one of the original members of the Sugar Island Zoning Committee. He was instrumental in creation of the Sugar Island Fire and Ambulance Corps as well as construction of the island's fire hall and community center and the initiative to clear and build the "Emergency Road Project," now known as South Brassar Road. He was also a founding member of the annual Sugar Island Music Festival, assisted with the building and opening of the Newberry Logging Museum and multiple music festivals across the Upper Peninsula. Joe was a charter member of the Sugar Island Historical Society. He was also the last of the original Sugar Island Boys band, the highlight of his musical career was

receiving and invitation and participating in representing Michigan's eastern Upper Peninsula for ethnic music at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

Joe worked with John Mastaw in creating a clearing for the Sugar Island Township Park on the north end of the island.

Joe is survived by his wife of 60 years; children, Jody Menard of Sault Ste. Marie, Randy (Melinda) Menard of Dafer, Mich., and Burt (Tanya) Menard of Sugar Island; nine grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Marlene McDermott of Philadelphia, Pa.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Raul Menard; brothers, Hector Menard, Gerald Menard and John "Chum" Menard; and brother-in-law, William "Mac" McDermott.

The celebration of his life has been canceled due to a COVID exposure situation. Burial will take place at a later date on Sugar Island.

The family is grateful to Hospice of the EUP and his godchildren Robert "Buck" Menard and Bernard "Bunzie" Germain.

Tribute Wall

JH

“ Thoughts & Prayers for Rose and anyone else , whom were lucky enough to have this wonderful man touch their lives !!!

Joy Horton - July 23, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ My heart is breaking. He sang at my wedding and mourned with me when my husband died. A finer man and family friend you will never find. My prayers are with Rosie, the boys and all of his family. Rest in peace.....

Susann Currie Sheets - July 10, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ I am sad to hear Joe's passing, he was always so sweet to the girls and I when we lived in to Soo. He came to Caro when his granddaughters were married years ago, it was wonderful to see him. He will be miss by his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Linda (Borst) Neuville - July 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ My deepest condolences for your loss

Joe did so much good for everyone he will be missed.

Barb



Barbara Merchberger Nelson - June 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Family of Joe, I know words don't mean a whole lot right now, but you all have been in my thoughts and prayers since I heard of Joe's passing. The days ahead won't be easy, but hold tight to the memories you have of times together, and keep your love for him safely tucked into your hearts. Be strong and know that others share your grief at this difficult time. Love, hugs and prayers to you and yours from me and mine!*

Jamie Harvey - June 18, 2020 at 12:00 AM