



## Raymond E. Reilly

November 30, 1928 - December 7, 2011

Raymond Edward Reilly, age 83, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan passed away late Wednesday evening, December 7, 2011 at his home. "Laughter sparkles like a splash of water in the sunlight", Ray's laughter was the sparkle in our lives and he will be deeply missed. Ray was born on November 30, 1928 in Maywood, Illinois, the son of the late Edward and Lucille (Cook) Reilly. On April 7, 1951, he married his "Sweetie Pie", Lois Reed in Buchanan, Michigan and have enjoyed 60 years together. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Michigan State University, his Master's degree from Cornell University, and his PhD from Michigan State University. Ray was a professor at Lake Superior State University where he taught Wildlife Biology and Ornithology. He was active in the study of the white tail deer, sharp tail grouse, and pheasant populations. He enjoyed spending time with family and being outdoors, and hadn't missed an opening day of deer season since 1946! He also loved to play cards and was an elder of his church, But most of all, he was a firm believer in Creationism and loved the Lord Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife: Lois Reilly; three sons: Steve (Huyen) Reilly of Vietnam, Brian (Ginny) Reilly of Texas, and Sean Reilly of SSM, MI; six daughters: Karen Muray of SSM, MI, Christine (Howard) Moore of Colorado, Diane (Mark) Possamai of SSM MI, Raelene (Terry LaLonde) Reilly of Traverse City, MI, Marianne (Ken) Sebastian of SSM, MI, and Susie (Brad) Kerst of Munising, MI; 30 grandchildren, and many great grandchildren. He is also survived by a sister: Dorothy (Chet) Bullock of St. Louis, MO. Private funeral services were held on

December 14th, 2011 with burial at the Reilly Cemetery. We would like to send our sincerest thank you and deepest gratitude to Dr. Chander who cared for Ray. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to Hospice of the EUP.

# Tribute Wall

MK

“ *Dr. Reilly touched the lives of many. I will always remember him as a kind, considerate person. A college professor truly interested in his students, and their goals in life. In four different colleges and universities, in three different states, Dr Reilly was without peer. His knowledge of Gods creation was second to none. May God bless his family, and comfort them at this time. I will always consider myself blessed to have known him. IN HIS love, Mark.*

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**Mark Korodan** - October 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EW

“ *I met Ray in the fall of 1966 when we both worked in biology at Lake Superior. It was a great time..we had such fun together..with Viggo, Gil and Gal...life was never dull. how the time flys.*

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**earl weidner** - September 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *I feel so bad I JUST learned of Ray's passing and don't know if you will get this. He was a wonderful person and greatly inspired me and my two children, Caleb and Zachary. God blessed us with him.*

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**Jeanna (Dewey) Myers** - January 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ *My wonderful Pop Pop was the best grandfather and a superb role model growing up. My husband Ben and I are very saddened by his passing but know that we will see him again.*

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**Terah Allis** - December 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ I remember his hands, holding mine, pointing at birds and flowers and leaves. Explaining the difference between the sugar maple and the red maple, the white pine and the red. I remember the noise of wood being chopped, split, piled. I remember the whoosh and spout of water that he would blow out of his mouth while swimming laps in the college pool, just like a whale. I remember wandering among the maples, calling to him "this bucket has lots of sap in it, Pop-pop!" The thaw would have begun and he would tap the sugar maples, collect the sap and bring it into the backyard where he boiled it over a wood fire in a large cauldron. That sweet, sappy steam and smoke smell has seeped into my permanent memories.

I remember mornings. He would wake up early, make coffee and sit at his spot at the counter, down on the end. he had his books and bible and his glasses always sitting there, waiting for him each morning. No matter what was going on he kept to his routine. The coffee and reading, his trips to the college gym and pool, chopping wood, stoking the furnace, watching the birds, settling in his chair to watch the 9&10 news. I thought the news was boring. No more Star Wars or cartoons. But I knew better than to complain, because it was Pop-pop's routine. No matter what he kept his routine. He was stability.

Love you miss you, Pop-pop.

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**Julia Malette** - December 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ So very sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Kristie {Thompson} Mickelson** - December 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ *The Reilly Family:*

*I was so sad to read of Professor Reilly's passing. He was indeed an amazing man - a great teacher. I have so many memories of his classes years ago at Lake State. He was one of the best! My sincere condolences for your loss. He will be missed, but always remembered.*

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**Kay Mattson Schwab** - December 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *Reilly Family,*

*I am so sorry to read of your loss.*

*As a freshman college student in the fall of 1968, I was part of the Work/Study program and had the chance to work for Prof. Reilly. He was working on his degree and I did charts of "Home Range of Chipmunks", for him.*

*I also stuffed birds to mount for classroom display. He had a whole freezer full that had been gotten from the electric company sub station. Not many work/study kids wanted to do the messy stuff. I was a farm girl and had no problem with it. It certainly was interesting doing those things, and I have never forgotten the experience.*

*My thought are with your family at this time.*

*Sue Sherlund*

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**Susan Tuori Sherlund** - December 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

HB

“ *So sorry for your great loss Reilly family. We love you all & will be calling Lois soon for a lunch date.*

*LOVE IN CHRIST*

*HOWARD & NANCY*

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**Howard & Nancy Boeve** - December 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DO

“ *He was such a nice man. He will be missed. I will keep you in my prayers.*

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**Donna Osborn** - December 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ *Lois and family  
Know that our love and prayers are with you at this time. We have long admired Ray for his love for the Lord, his leadership and knowing that he always stood firm for what was right and true. His love for others will never be forgotten.*  
*Tim and Ann*

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**Tim Bradley** - December 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ *To Ray's family.  
We at the Bruce Township Office, will miss Ray's beautiful smile, wonderful laugh and great sense of humor. He was special.*

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**Ruth LaJoie** - December 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *Dear Lois and family,*

*Deepest sympathies to all of you in the loss of this amazing man - husband, father, grandfather, and much more - educator, nature lover, friend.*

*Know that you are being thought of and prayed for. Wishing you the peace that passes understanding.*

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**Carol (O'Bryant) Brandt** - December 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM