



## Vernon Lowell Erskine

October 19, 1921 - February 21, 2021

Vern Erskine, age 99, passed away at his home in Moran on February 21, 2021.

Mr. Erskine was born in Allenville, Michigan on October 19, 1921. His parents were Jack and Violet Erskine. He had four brothers - Jack, Glenn, Ralph, Marvin, and one sister - LaRaine.

He attended grade school in Allenville and Moran. He would ride the train to LaSalle High School in St. Ignace where he graduated in 1939.

Vern was a World War Two veteran. He served in the 28th Division Battery B of the 107th Field Artillery from 1942 to 1946. He fought in five major battles in Europe including The Battle of the Bulge and The Battle of Hurtgen Forest. He was recently interviewed by the GVSU Veterans History Project. His memories and thoughts of his military service have been archived for future generations to learn about this important time in the history of our country.

He married Vonnie Novenske on April 24, 1954. They had four children - Pam, Tami, Verna and Brad. They were blessed with four grandsons - Matthew, Andrew, Nicholas and Zachary.

Vern worked as a logger and on the State Ferry Boats between St. Ignace and

Mackinaw City before becoming an iron worker. He was a member of Local 783. His job sites included The Mackinac Bridge, The International Bridge, Tilden Mines and The Superior Dome.

After retiring in 1989, he was elected as Treasurer of Brevort Township, a position he held for over 25 years. He continued on the Board as a trustee until he turned 95.

He lived his life with love, faith, kindness and generosity. He loved spending time with his family. His favorite color was yellow. He loved starting his day with a cup of coffee on his back porch. He told the best stories. He loved good books. He was a lifelong Detroit Tiger fan. He enjoyed watching University of Michigan football and basketball games. "Go Blue" is a favorite family phrase.

Vern loved the outdoors. He enjoyed hunting and fishing. He taught his children to love and respect nature and to see the beauty not only in trees and flowers but in rocks and soil. There was joy in planting a seed in good dirt and watching it grow. Each spring he planted a huge vegetable garden. People would often stop to admire his garden and take photos. They would leave with fresh vegetables.

Vern was a member of The Zion Lutheran Church in Allenville where he served many years as treasurer and council member. He was an elder in The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and a lifetime member of The Veterans of Foreign Wars.

A Memorial Service will be held for Vern on Saturday, July 24th at 11 a.m. at the Zion Lutheran Church of Allenville, 1946 W Brevort Lake Rd, Moran, MI 49760. The family invites you to join them for lunch after the service.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUL **24**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Allenville Zion Lutheran Church  
1946 W. Brevort Lake Rd.  
Moran, MI 49760

# Tribute Wall



“ *Vernon Lowell Erskine*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Vernon Lowell Erskine*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Vernon Lowell Erskine*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of  
Vernon Lowell Erskine.*



February 25, 2021 at 12:46 PM

BL

“ Vern was my Father-In-Law, and I could not have asked for a better one. He deserved a medal just for putting up with me for over 40 years. He helped me in more ways than I can count. He was always there when you needed him. He could build anything from a table to the Mighty Mac bridge. He was not so large in stature, but was one of the toughest men I ever knew. Inside and out. I could go on for pages about him. All that I owe him I can never repay. It was my honor to have walked in his shadow, and now his shadow has finally set him free.

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**Bill Larson** - February 24, 2021 at 12:22 PM

TF

*Bill and Pam, My deepest sympathy to you and the family.  
Thomas Flynn*

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**thomas flynn** - July 19, 2021 at 09:57 PM

VL

“ Uncle Vern will be missed by many. To his family deepest sympathies 🌸 I pray for God’s peace, comfort & many happy memories to share.



*I remember when I was in 5th grade... I slipped on the school buses bottom step it had been raining and the step was wet. I fell on the asphalt walk that went up to the school.*

*Mr Taylor my teacher drove me to St. Ignace to doctor Lassanen, my right wrist was shattered. My mom and siblings had went down state to Chelsea, so no one was home at my house. Mr. Taylor took me to my Gramma’s house. I was there for most of the day and then Uncle Vern showed up at Gramma’s house. He had a carton of Chocolate ice cream & a package of Coconut washboard cookies, both my favorites. So he dished me up ice cream & told me to open the cookies. After I had finished, he took me for a ride it was getting to be early evening, we went down the East Lake road and he parked on the edge of the road and told me to roll my window down a bit & to be quite he did the same on his side of the truck. There were Coyotes howling from one side of the road to other. Later on in life I realized there were two packs howling at or to each other.*

*I wonder what he and my dad, Glen, Marvin, and Ralph are doing right now.*

*Cousins, Pam, Tammy, Verna & Brad & families you are all in my thoughts and prayers.*

*With love,  
Ernie and Vicki*

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**Vicki Langstaff** - February 24, 2021 at 11:19 AM

VL

*I know I misspelled Dr. L's last name, sorry. Also Uncle Vern took me home when my dad got home from work.*

**Vicki Langstaff** - February 24, 2021 at 11:25 AM

BN

*Very nice tribute, Vicki, to a great man. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. He and Wes are finally sliding into home base one after the other...*

**Barbara J. Nelson Pechta Nelson** - February 25, 2021 at 08:41 AM

BN

*Very nice tribute, Vicki, to a great guy. He and Wes are probably sliding into home one after the other up in Heaven.*

**Barbara J. Nelson Pechta Nelson** - February 25, 2021 at 08:43 AM

LD

“ *Blessings to the Erskine family. My mom went to school with Vern, was a cousin. She said he was so kind to everyone. I met him a few times when we would go visit the Moran area. He was always helping others and his service to the country was very much appreciated by all of us... Heaven has gained another angel today!*

**Linda Horton Dix** - February 24, 2021 at 07:12 AM

LZ

“ *Such a wonderful man and loved by all especially the entire family. When I told John of his passing, we reminisced of all the wonderful times with all of the Novinski clan much love to the entire family.*



**Lori Zordell** - February 23, 2021 at 07:42 PM

BS

“ Vern was a dear friend to Bernie and I. Loved working with him on township board, if we where off 1 penny we had to find it. During our meetings he was my candy man, passing candy to me. His gardens where beautiful, great green thumb. Vern was a gentle gentleman, very proud to call him my friend. Rest In Peace Vern you are on your next journey. Love to the Erskine’s family. 🙏🙏🙏🇺🇸🇺🇸

**Betty Sorrels.** - February 23, 2021 at 07:33 PM

TS

“ I think of Vern active around the church and ready to share an encouraging word or just make you feel welcome. Peace be with you all - Pastor Tari

**Tari Stage-Harvey** - February 23, 2021 at 05:56 PM

DE

“ Uncle Vern was a wonderful, kind and loving man and he will be greatly missed. Ron, Deb and family. (Erskine)

**Deborah Erskine** - February 23, 2021 at 05:41 PM

LW

“ I had the honor of serving with him on the Brevort Twp board...he was a very nice man.

**L Wallace** - February 23, 2021 at 05:38 PM

MB

“ Vern was our neighbor for 20 years. He was always busy doing something but always stopped to tell you one of his jokes. He was loved by many in the area and will be greatly missed. Barb and I are saddened by the news of his passing. Prayers for Tammy and rest of his family. He is with our LORD now.

**Mark Boshaw** - February 23, 2021 at 03:24 PM

BS

*Vern was a great friend to Bernie and I. I loved working with him in our township job, always slipping me candy during our meetings. Loved all his stories, he was a gentle gentleman. Rest In Peace Vern Peace to the family. 🙏🙏🇺🇸*

**Betty Sorrels.** - February 23, 2021 at 07:23 PM

TR

*Vern was a sweet man with a great family and we were always happy to see him any chance we got. Four wheeler rides with my mom and kids generally ended up with a visit to Vern and even though I didn't end up as a permanent part of the family, he always treated me and my kids well. Rest In Peace Vern, I'm sure Vonnie had the "homemade strawberries and wild shortcakes" ready for your arrival. Condolences to Brad and love to the entire family. ❤️*

**Tracy** - February 23, 2021 at 08:02 PM

JP

*To My cousins Pam, Tam, Brad, Verna and Grands, There are just no words to tell you how I feel with the passing of your Dad and my Uncle Vern. My mother feels like the last Mohican and we have all been very tearful the past couple of weeks. He was a pillar in the community, a gentle kind hearted sweet giant of a man who endured the military and steel worker on the Mighty Mac. The last of the Erskine boys taking his great talent, knowledge & wisdom with him. When we were kids, he and your Mom always made me feel welcome at your home as the 5th kid. I remember cooning his beautiful garden and watching all the canning and later in life sharing his plants. Such sweet childhood memories. I remember all the times he would surprise visit at the cabin, snowmobiling and his visits to Newberry. 2 summers ago, a bunch of us cousins, Mom and my Dad visited. He was reminiscing and showing us photos of his military buddies which meant the world to us as he never really shared that part of his life before. Thinking of you all and I will forever hold Uncle Vern near and dear to my heart. Jan & Glen Pittman*

**Janice Pittman** - February 25, 2021 at 08:23 AM

DW

*"You give little when you give of your possessions.  
It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."*

*I will always remember my Uncle Vern as a very giving man. My sister and I spent many a summer day within his household. He always had time for us and of course for that ice cream cone. In later conversations I appreciated and began to understand the wisdom he imparted. You will be missed.*

*Dan, Cyndi, Colton and Chelsea Wiggins*

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**Daniel Wiggins** - February 26, 2021 at 10:33 AM

ED

*I did not know the gentleman. However, he was of the GREATEST GENERATION and deserves our genuine RESPECT and APPRECIATION!*

*I grew up in MI and the U P represents heaven to me. The fact that this gentleman gave his all to his family, Michigan and his country defines what a REAL American is all about.*

*May his family find PEACE and COMFORT in the memories and may HE REST IN PEACE! God Bless You ALL!*

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**E L Dunlap** - February 27, 2021 at 12:55 AM