



Willis Frederick Galer

January 1, 1928 - November 15, 2015

Willis Frederick Galer, age 87, of Pickford, Michigan, died Sunday, November 15, 2015, at home surrounded by family. He was born January 1, 1928 to Conrad Galer and Izetta Elizabeth (Wise) Galer in Pickford.

Willis attended primary school in Pickford, St. Ignace, Newberry, and Saginaw, Michigan, moving around while his father was working on construction of bridges for the highway department. He graduated from Pickford High School where he met Olive Elizabeth Roe. They were married on December 2, 1946. They moved to Grand Rapids for a short while before moving back to Pickford to start their family. Willis worked for Leonard Rye at the Hessel Grocery and then at the A & P in Sault Ste. Marie before he purchased the Pickford Grocery in 1954. He operated the grocery until 1965 when he sold his business to attend Lake Superior State College and earn his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. He then attended Michigan State University and earned his MBA. Willis returned to LSSC in 1970 where he was a member of the Business School Faculty and taught business classes including marketing, sales, business administration, accounting, and advertising. For several years, Willis also taught at Algoma University and Cambrian University in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, as an adjunct professor. He retired in 1990 after 20 years of teaching. Olive passed away in 1993. In 1995, he married Mary Bawks Howell in Maui, Hawaii. They enjoyed their time together traveling and making everyday living fun. They just celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary on September 20 with an open house where they

enjoyed greeting many of their friends.

Willis has been a member of the Pickford Lions Club since 1955 where he served in many offices including President and was the recipient of the Melvin Jones Fellow for dedicated humanitarian services by Lions Clubs International. He was also a member of the Pickford United Methodist Church, Midwest Business Administrators Association, Midwest Marketing Association, and the Pickford Grange. He served on the Pickford Public Schools Board of Education for many years.

Crossword puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, boating, grilling, reading, traveling to Alaska and Hawaii, old time country music, Australian folk music, playing guitar, and spending time with his family were just a few of Willis' favorite things to do. When asked how he was doing, his usual response was a big smile and the words "just right".

Willis is survived by his wife, Mary; daughter, Linda (David) Thompson of Pickford; son, Rodney Willis (Patsy) Galer of Pickford; grandchildren, Candace (Larry) Warner, Cheri (Scott) Skinner, Trisha (Zachary) Thompson-Jennings, Micah Willis (Lisa) Galer, Nathan (Tiffany) Galer, and Emily Galer; great grandchildren, Cassaundra Warner (Chris) Cohrs, Jillian and Jacob Warner, Adam, Christopher, Benjamin, and Kyra Skinner, Griffin and Samuel Jennings, Harper Willis, Astrid, Livi, and Vander Conrad Galer; great great grandson, Kaden Warner-Cryderman; and his brother, Merlin Conrad (Lorraine) Galer. He is also survived by Mary's family, her nephew she raised, Chuck (Jenni) Bawks of Texas; niece, Aleta (Dan) Phillips of Texas; great nephews, Russell (Kristen) Bawks, and Stephen, Michael, and Timothy Phillips; and great great nephews and niece, Talyn Drew, Matthew Alan, and Amelia Grace.

Willis was preceded in death by his parents; first wife, Olive; sister, Connie E. Galer VanLuven; great grandson Holden Micah Galer; and Mary's brother, Alvin Bawks and great nephew, Matthew Bawks.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, November 19 from 3 P.M. until 7 P.M. at R. Galer Funeral Home, 24549 S. M-129 in Pickford and Friday, November 20

from 10:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. at the Pickford United Methodist Church. Funeral services will be held Friday, November 20 at 11 A.M. at the Pickford United Methodist Church with Reverend Timothy Bashore conducting the service.

Burial will be in Cottle Cemetery in Marquette Township, Pickford.

Memorial contributions may be made to Pickford United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 128, Pickford, MI 49774 or Northwoods Christian Camp on the Rapson, P.O. Box 574, Pickford, MI 49774.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **19**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Pickford
24549 S. M-129
Pickford, MI 49774
(906) 647-3400
flfh@familylifefh.com
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

Visitation

NOV **20**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

United Methodist Church
115 E Church St
Pickford, MI

Funeral Service

NOV **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

United Methodist Church
115 E Church St
Pickford, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Willis Frederick Galer

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ Willis Frederick Galer

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ Willis Frederick Galer

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ Harper Galer sent a virtual gift in memory of Willis Frederick Galer



Harper Galer - September 25, 2019 at 11:06 AM



“ Harper Galer lit a candle in memory of Willis Frederick Galer



Harper Galer - September 25, 2019 at 11:02 AM

GS

“ I went to Lake State with Willis, and am Mary's friend. Praying God's help for all the family at this time of parting. The next event will be a grnd reunion for you all, because of Jesus! With love and prayer,
Gene Schrader-Nutter

Gene Schrader-Nutter - November 20, 2015 at 09:21 AM

MC

“ Our time to support all of you in your time of grief. What a full and wonderful life Mr. Galer lead. Our thoughts and prayers are with you along with thanks to you all for the support you have given the rest of us in our time of grieving.

A big hug! Martha Carlin

Martha Carlin - November 19, 2015 at 12:28 PM

JH

“ Mary, Rod, Linda and family,
Our smypathy is with you at this time. Willis will surely be missed. He was such a gentle man. Thinking of you at this time.

*Love Cousin,
Joyce (Galer) and Nelson Holt*

Joyce Holt - November 19, 2015 at 07:37 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Willis Frederick Galer.



November 18, 2015 at 09:46 PM

JK

“ *Mary and all of the Galer families-Thinking of you at this sad time and praying that you will feel God's loving arms around you as you walk through difficult days. May your memories of your loved one bring a measure of comfort and help you as you begin life without Willis.*

Jane Kennedy - November 18, 2015 at 07:10 AM



“ *Mr. Galer, you were a wonderful man to know. You loved your community, and the youth. It was always great seeing you and Mary at various sporting/school events. Your presents will be missed, but your memory will live on in our hearts forever.*

Michelle Saltzman - November 17, 2015 at 06:43 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Willis Frederick Galer.*



November 17, 2015 at 01:47 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Willis Frederick Galer.*



November 16, 2015 at 09:08 PM

KG

“ I will miss you Uncle Willis. Thank you for your guidance, love, support, and wisdom. You started out as Mr. Galer, my Advisor at Lake State, but became Uncle Willis, a man of Christian Faith, showing so many of us the right path to follow. When I would see you, I'd ask how you were and you always say, "I'm just right"...and knowing you are in the arms of our God, surrounded by the ones you love, I know you are "just right". You are in my heart always...Kellie

Kellie Galer - November 16, 2015 at 08:09 AM

TB

“ Willis Galer a Gentleman, a Disciple, a True man of God, you will truly be missed until we meet again. Thank-you for your Christian Fellowship and love. In His Grip-Pastor Tim and Kay Bashore

timothy bashore - November 16, 2015 at 07:22 AM