

Miller, Raymond J.

Raymond John Miller, 83, of Port Huron, passed away Monday, September 19, 2005, at Port Huron Mercy Hospital after a long battle with cancer. He was born to William and Anna Victoria Miller on August 7, 1922 in Port Huron, the fourth oldest of nine children. As a youngster during the Depression, he sold newspapers by Van Haften Drug Store (Newman Center) and changed the movie marquis at Family Theatre. On June 22, 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Raymond served as an armed guard during World War II on Navy Merchant ship convoys in the Atlantic, later transferred to service in the Pacific, and was honorably discharged in October 1946 after serving at Bikini Atoll. He was recognized with the American Area Ribbon, World War II Victory Medal, Europe Africa Mid-East Area Ribbon and the Asiatic Pacific Area Ribbon. He received his diploma from St. Stephen High School in June 1945. He returned to work at Chrysler Manufacturing in Marysville, and during the 100-day strike in the 1950s, enrolled in a heating/cooling course in Chicago. Unable to secure work in the industry, he drove west to Seattle to join his older brother, Wilbert, who worked at Boeing. En route, he stopped in Burlington, Iowa, and spent time with his oldest brother, Charles, a chiropractor. Plans changed; he enrolled at Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa, in 1956 and graduated in 1960. While there, he met Catherine L. Bourgeois of Gardner, Massachusetts, and married her on September 10, 1960 in Davenport, Iowa. They had one daughter, Lorraine. In 1962, they moved to Bad Axe, Michigan, opened Miller Chiropractic Clinic and practiced together until they officially retired in 2000. Their practice received recognition for community service. Raymond was active in the Knights of Columbus in Bad Axe and as an usher at St. Stephen Catholic Church in Port Huron. He was a faithful member of the St. Stephen Athletic Club. He also served as president of Toastmasters while at Palmer College. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, bowling, softball and watching the Detroit Tigers, Red Wings and Lions. He enjoyed the company of his brothers and sisters and they spent many hours playing cards together at family gatherings. He is survived by his daughter, Lorraine A. Miller, of Chicago, Illinois; his sister, Joan Gaffigan, of Port Huron; his brother, Leonard Miller, of Port Huron; his sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and Marvin Lubbert, of Fort Gratiot; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Catherine Bourgeois Miller in 2002; his parents; his sister, Rosemary Sloan; and his brothers, Charles, Wilbert, Harold and Gerald. The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, September 23, 2005, at St. Stephen Church, 325 32nd Street in Port Huron. Fr. Donald Eppenbrock, Raymond's cousin, will officiate. Burial will follow in Mt. Hope Cemetery. Visitation hours will be from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday at Karrer-Simpson Funeral Home, 1720 Elk Street at Pine Grove Avenue, Port Huron, with an evening Rosary at 7 p.m. A brief visitation will be from 10 a.m. until the time of the service on Friday at the church. Memorials may be made to the Council on Aging of Port Huron, Blue Water Hospice and St. Stephen Catholic Church.