

# Erich G. Kraft

## 1906 - 1994

Erich G. Kraft, age 87 of Pigeon, passed away Wednesday, November 16 at Scheurer Hospital in Pigeon.

Mr. Kraft was born on the family farm in Bay Port on December 2, 1906, the son of the late Herman and Emma (Jacob) Kraft. On January 12, 1929 he was united in marriage to Anna M. Ruthig in Pigeon. She preceded him in death on November 4, 1946. On February 14, 1953 he married Mildred M. Van Effen at St. John Lutheran Church, Berne.

In 1929, Mr. Kraft established a farm drainage business in Pigeon, where he was a distributor of farm tile drainage machinery. His son, Lowell, joined him in the business in 1951, and Mr. Kraft continued to serve the community until his retirement from Erich Kraft & Son, Inc. in 1968. From 1939 until 1956 he also owned and operated a plumbing and heating business in Pigeon.

Mr. Kraft was a lifelong member of St. John Lutheran Church, Berne, having been a Deacon and serving on the Church Council for several years. He was a Charter Member and Past President of the Pigeon Lions Club, and was a former member of the Pigeon Chamber of Commerce, having served on its Board of Directors and helping to establish Pigeon's first Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Kraft was one of the founding members of the Michigan Land Improvement Contractors Association, and was a member of the Scenic Golf and Country Club. Mr. Kraft was an avid hunter, golfer, and fisherman.

His survivors include his wife, Mildred M. of Pigeon; a son and daughter-in-law, Lowell E. and Nancy Kraft, Pigeon; a daughter and son-in-law, Naomi E. and Gil Wichert, Pigeon; five grandchildren, David Kraft, Carol Nelson, Daniel Kraft, Susan Weir, and Dean Wichert; and 11 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a sister, Olga, and two brothers, Henry and Anton.

Funeral Services will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, November 18 from St. John Lutheran Church, Berne. Rev. James A. Gorseger, pastor, will officiate. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. John Lutheran Church (lift) Building Fund, Scheurer Hospital, Pigeon District Library, or Country Bay Village.