

Benzie, Joseph

Joseph R. Benzie, 75, of Arcadia, Fla. and Bad Axe, passed away Saturday, Jan. 25, 2003, at Sarasota Memorial Hospital in Sarasota, Fla. Cremation has taken place. Joseph was born March 31, 1927 in Norway, Mich. to the late Fred James and Romilda (Treves) Benzie. He and Josephine DeFranco were married on January 14, 1950 in Hillsdale. Joseph graduated from Norway High School in Norway. He earned his bachelor of science and master degrees from Northern Michigan University in Marquette. He also earned an Education Specialist's degree from Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant. Joseph served in the United States Navy during World War II. He worked for the United States Department of Soil Conservation Service. He also worked as a police officer for the Marquette Police Department. He was a sales representative for Standard Oil of Indiana. Joseph taught high school classes at Bad Axe and Ubyly community schools. He served as the superintendent of Port Hope Community Schools until his retirement in 1986. He also served as the Colfax Township Supervisor. Joseph was a member of the Beaverton Lion's Club, and served as an officer of the Bad Axe Lion's Club. He was appointed to the Michigan No. 83 Selective Service Board by President Reagan. He served on the board until 2002. He was a member of Bad Axe-Port Austin Memorial VFW No. 116, Port Austin-Bad Axe American Legion No. 0499, American Veterans (AMVETS) of Arcadia, Fla. No. 60. Joseph enjoyed hunting, fishing, golf, playing cards, and traveling. Joseph is survived by his wife, Josephine; one son, Joseph Benzie Jr. and his wife, Mary, of East Lansing; three granddaughters, Amanda, Alise, and Anne Benzie of East Lansing; one sister, Gloria Benzie Versailles of Arizona; and one brother, Roger Benzie of Benson, Ariz. He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Fred James Benzie Jr. and Ward Edward Benzie. Mass of Christian Burial will be 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2003, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bad Axe. Fr. John Killop will officiate. Visitation will be from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday at MacAlpine Funeral Home in Bad Axe. There will be a scripture service at 7 p.m. on Friday at the funeral home. Memorials may be offered to the Joseph R. Benzie Scholarship Fund for the Port Hope Community Schools.