

H. Gordon Motz

H. Gordon Motz, 98, of Greenbush, died Saturday, June 1, 2002 at Iosco Medical Care Facility in Tawas. He was born Sept. 27, 1903, in Elkton, to Jeremiah and Elizabeth Motz and graduated from Elkton High School in 1922. He received a bachelor's degree in education from Michigan Normal College in Ypsilanti and a master's degree at Wayne State University. He taught school in Haslett, Kilmanagh, Bay Port, Sebawaing and in Center Line where he finished his career including the last 14 as the principal of Busch Junior High. He retired in June 1968, after 45 years in the field of education.

He directed a pilot program in outdoor education sponsored by the DNR and Michigan State Police. He was on the committee that created the South Macomb Occupational Training Program involving six school districts (today known as School-to-Work). He was the first president of the Center Line Educational Association, president of the Center Line Educational Association, president of the Center Line Community Club, chairman of advisory committee of Center Line Urban Renewal Program, charter member of the Lions Club of center Line, and charter member of the Warren Optimist Club.

He was married to Beatrice Roberts for 69 years. They moved to Greenbush in 1969 and had been members of the Oscoda United Methodist Church since that time.

He lived a life filled with curiosity, joy and optimism, always looking for the good in others. He traveled extensively with his wife and family, creating wonderful memories that carried him through his long life. He was a great storyteller, vividly recalling events from early childhood and sharing them with others. Many called him a "walking history book."

Survivors include his wife, Beatrice; a son, Jerry (Sandra) Motz of Greenbush; a daughter, Kathryn (Michael) Farrimond of Petoskey; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Ella and Dorothy; and a brother, Emory. Funeral service took place at 1 p.m. June 3 at Buresh-Bennett Funeral Home in Oscoda, with Rev. William Cargo officiating. Burial was in Springport Cemetery in Harrisville.

Memorials may be made to Oscoda United Methodist Church.