

William D. Dodge

(May 6, 1931 - October 10, 2012)

 William D. Dodge, age 81, of Sebewaing, our hero and family anchor, went to his Heavenly home Wednesday evening, October 10, 2012, after heart complications and a battle with Parkinson's Disease.



Words are inadequate to capture his full essence and zeal for life. He was born May 6th, 1931 in Elmer, NJ. He had five siblings, Lester, Julia, Beatrice, Raymond, and Alden who all preceded him in death. In 1941, William's father passed away and his oldest brother Raymond provided for the family by selling fresh produce. Eventually, with the help of William and Alden, selling produce developed into Dodge's Market, which was a family run business for over 53 years. William attended High School in Bridgeton, NJ and earned an associate's degree in education from New Jersey State University. He served in the US Army Military Intelligence from 1950-1953, and was stationed in Austria, France, and Germany. After his discharge in 1954 he married the love of his life, Ruth L. Brilinski, who preceded him in death earlier this year after almost 60 years of marriage. William attended MSU, earning a Bachelor's Degree in education. He went on to teach industrial arts for 4 years in Sheridan before becoming high school principal in Farwell. He became Superintendent of Pine River Schools before moving to Sebewaing in 1964. During the summer, William worked to earn his Masters degree from MSU and eventually a specialist degree in education from CMU. William served as superintendent of USA schools for more than 30 years and impacted many lives. His dream was to consolidate the separate schools to a single location. Today his dream is recognized and the middle school stands in dedication to him. William's ultimate goal in life was to help others. He always saw the best in people and situations. He loved to give and was deeply involved in the starting and maintaining of the Caring & Sharing program that provides food to families in need.

He loved his 3 children; Bill Dodge Jr. (who preceded him in death in 2008), Deborah Haist, and Pam Siverson. He cherished his grandchildren Joel & Gillian Haist, Bryant & Casey Haist, Annessa Haist, Sara Siverson, Jordan Siverson, Max Siverson, Elden Siverson, and Henry Siverson. He also adored his great-grandchildren Noah, Sean, and Kaden Haist.

Throughout the years William held firm to his deep Christian faith and patriotic beliefs. Our time spent with him will be cherished forever and the impression he left on so many lives will continue his legacy.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, October 14, 2012 at 2pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sebewaing.

Donations may be given to Caring and Sharing or the Immanuel Radio Mission.

Arrangements handled with care by Juengel & Mellendorf Funeral Home, Sebewaing.