

# Neil A. Libka

## 1926 - 1996

Neil August Libka, age 70 of Pigeon, passed away Monday, October 14 at his home.

He was born to Louis August and Elsie Christena (McLean) Libka on April 27, 1926 in Detroit. He was baptized at home in May of 1926 by Lutheran minister Rev. Reidel, with his grandmother, Wilhelmina (Lemke) Libka and her brother, Edward Lemke, as godparents. He celebrated his confirmation in the Christian faith at Zion Lutheran Church, Tawas City, in July, 1940. He attended Tawas Area Schools and graduated first in the Class of 1944. He served with the U.S. Navy during the latter part of World War II and after, from August 3, 1944 to June 21, 1946, attaining the rank of Seaman First Class and serving as radio technician on the USS Sperry in the South Pacific. He then attended the University of Michigan and Central Michigan College of Education from which he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in 1950. He was married to Joan Lois Frank of Pigeon on September 10, 1949 at the former First Methodist Church in Pigeon.

Neil was employed for 22 years with Michigan Lumber Fabricators as a cost accountant, housing engineer, and eventually plant manager. In 1972 he purchased and operated the Pigeon Lanes bowling alley and Village Inn restaurant with his wife, Joan. He joined the Huron County Equalization Department in Bad Axe in 1979 as appraiser, retiring in 1990.

Mr. Libka participated for 45 years in several bowling leagues, serving 10 years as Thumb Bowling Association president from 1963-1972 and secretary from 1980-1990. His other interests included fishing, golfing, fishing, gardening, fishing, traveling to Hawaii, the Bahamas, and Europe, and fishing.

Neil was extensively involved in the local community. He was a Little League coach, and he served on the Cub Scout Board. He was active with the Pigeon Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #2236 for 43 years, including 25 years as Service Officer, serving two terms as Post Commander in 1960-1962, and District Adjutant in 1968-1969. He was a member of the Pigeon Lions Club for 10 years, from 1970-1979, serving as President in 1974. He served as the Building Inspector for Winsor Township and the Village of Pigeon from 1975-1995; as Village of Pigeon Assessor from 1972-1979; and as the Zoning Administrator for Winsor Township since 1983, and for the Village of Pigeon since 1985.

He was a member of St. John Lutheran Church at Berne since 1950, serving as secretary and trustee from 1984-1990.

He is survived by his wife, Joan; six children and their spouses: Harold and wife, Jeanine of Flint, Robert and wife, Bonnie of Maywood, Illinois, Alice of Mt. Morris, Thomas and wife, Debbie of Milbank, South Dakota, Patrick of Westland, and Mary and husband, Michael McKinnon of Grand Blanc; 10 grandchildren: Michelle and husband, Jack Hunt, Kimberly and Jennifer Libka; Jeremy Donnell and wife, Stacey, Sean and William Niall "Beau" Donnell; Hilary Libka; and Kelly, Shannon, and Megan McKinnon; one great-grandson, Aaron Hunt; and a sister, Linda and husband, John Katterman of East Tawas. Mr. Libka was preceded in death by his mother, Elsie, in 1928, his father Louis, in 1957, and a grandson, Ryan Libka, in 1992.

Funeral Services will be conducted at 11:00 a.m on Thursday, October 17 from the St. John Lutheran Church, Berne. Rev. James Gorseger, pastor, will officiate. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to St John Lutheran Church building fund, Scheurer Hospital, or Bay Area Hospice.