

Herp, Gerald F.

Mr. Gerald F. Herp, 70, of Bad Axe, retired football coach of Ubly Community Schools, passed away Thursday morning, Nov. 19, 2009 at the Huron Medical Center in Bad Axe.

He was born at the family home in Burnips to Gerald and Irma (Goodman) Herp on Oct. 29, 1939.

He married Elrae Nugent on March 25, 1972 at the First Presbyterian Church in Bad Axe.

He was a 1957 graduate of Hopkins High School where he lettered in football, baseball and basketball. His college career began at Hope College, where he played football, and continued at Central Michigan University, where he obtained a bachelors degree in education. His career in teaching began in Farwell and continued in Lake City. He came to Ubly in 1963 teaching shop, home construction, driver's training and village summer recreation programs. In 1963, he also became the head coach of the Ubly Bearcat Football and Baseball teams.

He started Herp Construction Company in 1974 and moved on to serve under Sheriff Richard Stokan as the Vocational Coordinator of the Huron County Sheriff's Department until taking the position as Supervisor of Ubly Village Department of Public Works, from which he retired in 2001.

His true love was high school football, which he coached for over 30 years. He had league championship teams in 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972 (undefeated season), 1987, 1988 and 1995. His teams made the high school playoffs in 1992 and 1995. One of his proudest moments was being inducted to the Michigan High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 2000.

Herp is survived by his wife, Elrae (Nugent) Herp; his daughters, Amy (David) Russell of Waterford, Pa., Betsy (Benjamin) Butzbaugh of Spanish Fort, Ala., Rachel (Doris) Tausendfreund of Berlin, Germany, and Jeralyn Herp of Bay City; step-daughter, Lori (Shannon) Flippin of Essexville; his sisters, Dorothy (Richard) Anderson of Jenison and Janet (Cliff) Navis of Dorr; his grandchildren, Aryel Jade Russell, Jerod Herp Russell, Brendan Shane Flippin, Jillian Nicole Flippin and Bruno John Tausendfreund; mother-in-law, Dorothy Nugent of Mt. Pleasant; and three brothers-in-law, Jerry (Diane) Nugent of Davison, Warren (Mary Jane) Nugent of Charlevoix and Arnold Glaza of Ubly.

He was preceded in death by his son, Jeffrey Todd Herp; his parents, Gerald and Irma Herp; his sister-in-law, Judy (Nugent) Glaza; his father-in-law, John Nugent; and his nephew, Jonathan Nugent.

The funeral service is being planned for 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2009 at the Ubly High School. Elder Terry Brown, of the Community of Christ Church in Bay Port, will officiate. Burial will be in Valley Cemetery in Ubly.

Visitation will be from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Monday, and 3 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the Zinger-Smigielski Funeral Home in Ubly, and from 2 to 3 p.m. Wednesday at the Ubly High School.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to the Ubly High School football program. For condolences and memories please visit www.coachherp.com.