

Smukala, Edward

Edward K. Smukala, 81, of Port Austin, died Monday, January 19, 2004, at Courtney Manor in Bad Axe. He was born on March 25, 1922 in Hume Township, son of the late Theodore and Bernice (Heikkila) Smukala. Edward married Bridget Yarocho at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Port Austin. Edward worked for the family farm before moving to the Upper Peninsula to be a carpenter's apprentice to his maternal grandfather. He served in the U.S. Navy in World War II where he and his Construction Battalion (SeaBees) prepared airstrips for the Allies to land in the Philippines. He was an avid fisherman and hunter. Edward was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Port Austin and of the American Legion Frank Horetski Post No. 499 in Port Austin. Edward is survived by his wife, Bridget, of Port Austin; four daughters, Lois Lower, of Virginia, Margaret Herrington, of Florida, Debra Rice, of Oxford, and Donna Gagne, of Port Austin; two sons, David Smukala, of Chesterfield Township and Michael Smukala, of Oxford; 13 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sister, Arlene Scott; and his brother, Melvin Smukala. He was preceded in death by his brother, Raymond Smukala. A funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 24, 2004, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Port Austin. Officiating will be the Rev. Robert Pare', pastor. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. Visitation will be conducted from 2 to 9 p.m. on Friday and from 9 to 9:30 a.m. on Saturday at the Knoblock Funeral Home in Kinde. There will be a vigil at 7 p.m. on Friday at the funeral home. Contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to the American Diabetes Foundation or the American Cancer Society.