



WILLIAM A. "BILL" PARKILA, SR.

August 25, 1913 - June 17, 2010

WILLIAM A. "BILL" PARKILA, SR., age 96, of Calumet, and formerly of Alston passed away Wednesday, June 9, 2010 at Aspirus Keweenaw Hospital in Laurium, following a short illness. He was born August 25, 1913 in Pelkie, MI. the son of the late August and Kaisa (Koski) Parkila. Bill grew up on a farm in Pelkie, and in 1933 moved to Chicago for employment. There he met and married his wife Anne Haarstad and in 1937 they moved to Detroit where he was a tool and die maker. They returned to his much loved U.P. in 1945 and started Bill's Auto Parts in L'Anse, which he operated until retiring in 1973. Bill's wife Anne passed away in 1985. He married Katherine Johnson of Ontonagon in 1990. She preceded him in death in 2007. Bill was actively involved in numerous community endeavors: 15 years on the Baraga County Hospital Board with 13 of them as board chair- 15 years on the board at Commercial National Bank- 25 years on the Great Lakes Fisheries Committee. He served as president and officer several times on the Ottawa Sportsman's Club, and also was on the L'Anse Village Council and the Laird Twp. School Board. In 1994 Bill received the Kiwanas "Citizen of the Year" award. For over 20 years he had extensive involvement in sports programs in Alston as the playing coach of the hockey team and manager of the baseball team. He also was actively involved with the L'Anse Golden Eagles Drum Corps. Bill was twice Master of the L'Anse Masonic Lodge #547 F&AM and a member of the Ahmed Temple Shrine in Marquette and enjoyed involvement as president of the Red Rocks Toastmasters Club. He culminated his civic contributions as secretary and treasurer of the Western U.P. Forest Improvement District. Throughout all of his life Bill had great fulfillment and enjoyment of family and friends. Mr. Parkila is survived by his loving children, Diane (Robert) Hedman of Apple Valley, CA., Patricia (Gil Ziegler) Jensen of Livonia, MI., and William (Sandy) Parkila Jr. of L'Anse, and a special nephew Ron (June) Parkila of Baraga, grandchildren, Mara (David) Olden of Coon Rapids, MN., Kevin (Magdalena) Parkila of Royal Oak, MI., and Scott Jensen of West Bloomfield, MI, great grandchildren, Nathan and Eathan Olden, and Monika and Lukas Parkila. He also leaves numerous other nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by 10 brothers and sisters. Funeral services for Mr. Parkila were held at 12 p.m., Thursday, June 17, 2010 from the Reid Funeral Service and Chapel, L'Anse with Pete Suomela officiating. Interment took place in the Pelkie Cemetery. The family received

friends at the funeral chapel on Wednesday, June 16, 2010 from 6 until 8 p.m. and on Thursday from 11 a.m. until the time of the service. On Wednesday evening the L'Anse Masonic Lodge 547 F&AM conducted a Masonic service in the funeral chapel at 7 p.m. Following the funeral service on Thursday, the family invited friends to join them for fellowship and a luncheon in the Harrington Gathering room, located at the funeral chapel. Memorials in Mr. Parkila's honor may be directed to the Keweenaw Bay Shrine Club. The family would like to thank the staff and residents at Northridge Pines Assisted Living in Calumet for the wonderful compassionate care and friendships he so enjoyed there.

Comments



“ We are so sorry to hear about Bill's passing. We had enjoyed many conversations and visits with Bill over the years. He would visit us every other week if he could or if he couldn't he would call. He always had a great story to share and it was always interesting. We are unable to attend the funeral due to prior commitments, but we wanted to let you know that you have our condolences. Bill will surely be missed by many.

Calvin Kostamo and Janet Raymond

Calvin Kostamo & Janet Raymond - June 17, 2010 at 10:23 AM



“ Sending our deepest sympathy to the entire family during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Craig & Tammy Mattson - June 17, 2010 at 10:03 AM



“ Dear Diane, Patti, and Billy,
Favorite memories of Bill and Anne and you kids were all the family get togethers at our camps. The crazy water skiing, The Big Huron, Second Sand Beach, ice skating On the Alston Pond under lights, sleep overs, giggles etc. May you hold all the memories close. Just tap your heart and mom and dad will be there for you. This community has lost a good stable pillar. Be Still(Di, Pat and Bill) and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10
Hugs and Love, Lowell and Barb

Lowell and Barb - June 17, 2010 at 08:46 AM



“ To the entire Parkila family, I'm so sorry for your loss. Bill will be missed by all who knew him. He will not be forgotten!

Tracey - June 16, 2010 at 04:21 PM



“ Diane and Bob

Bill and I send our deepest sympathy for the lost of your father. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Bill & Chris Belmore - June 15, 2010 at 08:33 PM



“ Every bear season I think of Bill and Carl T Johnson, With C T staying at the old camp. Bill was a great person and will be missed.

Jim Bard
Traverse City

Jim Bard - June 15, 2010 at 07:25 PM



“ So sorry to here of Bill's passing, Heaven sure has a wonderful man! Enjoyed listening to his stories, he was quite entertaining. He was always grateful and considerate. You surely will miss him. My condolences, Cheryl Laurie (former housekeeper at North Ridge Pines)

Cheryl Laurie - June 15, 2010 at 05:48 PM



“ Dear Bill, Pat, Diane,
It's comforting to know that death cannot diminish the important ways Uncle Bill touched all of our lives. Grief cannot take away the happiness we shared when we were with Uncle Bill our sorrow will fade in time but our love for Uncle Bill will remain forever.

Rebecca Love - June 15, 2010 at 04:51 PM



“ Dear Bill, Diane, Pat and all Bill's family. Thinking of you all. Sorry for your loss. Will have to get together and tell some good Bill stories. There are lots. Love yas.
Darlene

Darlene Elmblad - June 15, 2010 at 12:04 PM



“ Near a shady wall a rose once grew.
Budded and blossomed in God's free light.
Watered and fed by morning dew.
Shedding its sweetness day and night.

As it grew and blossomed fair and tall.
Slowly rising to loftier height.
It came to a crevice in the wall.
Through which there shone a beam of light.

Onward it crept with added strength.
With never a thought of fear or pride;
It followed the light through the crevice-length
And unfolded itself on the other side.

The light, the dew, the broadening view.
Were found the same as they were before:
And it lost itself in beauties new.
Breathing its fragrance more and more.

Shall claim of death cause us to grieve
And make our courage faint or fall?
Nay, Let us faith and hope receive:
The rose still grows beyond the wall.

Scattering fragrance far and wide.
Just as it did in days of yore.
Just as it did on the other side.
Just as it will forevermore.

Shirley Saaranen - June 14, 2010 at 10:53 PM



“ Diane, Billy, Pat and family
We will miss Bill. He has been such a big part of my life. I always remember the talks and hockey we had together. It was wonderful to have him care so much for me and direct me in the right direction.
Later when I grew up to be able to join him in a Manhattan was a warm feeling for me and to recount the OLD DAYS. It was nice to be able to take my wife Shirley and introduce him to her and learn of the experiences I had in younger days. She always enjoyed to stop and have a Manhattan and visit and hear about the old days.

Billy and Shirley Saaranen - June 14, 2010 at 10:36 PM



“ My sincere sympathies to Diane, Patti, Billy and your entire family on the passing of such a great man. He was a pillar of your community in service to others and as a local business leader. He had a wonderful life, will certainly be missed and will be remembered as an example for us all.

Sincerely, Jim

Jim Surrell - June 12, 2010 at 10:42 PM



“ Dear Diane and all of Bill's Family, So sorry to hear of your loss. Our sincere condolences. Herb & Lou Tollefson. jl5ph

Tollefson - June 12, 2010 at 07:49 PM



“ Dear Patty, Billy and Diane,
You don't need us to tell you what a special man your father was.
We enjoyed knowing him and know he will be missed by everyone he touched during his lifetime.
Our condolences to you and your extended family,
Love,
Willie and Jack

Jack and Willie Schenk - June 12, 2010 at 01:12 PM