



Frederick Minster

January 29, 1913 - February 17, 2009

ADRIAN - Frederick Herman Carl Minster, 96, of Manitou Beach and Grand Court went to his heavenly home on Tuesday, February 17, 2009, at Lenawee Medical Care Facility.

Born January 29, 1913 in Wellsville, Lenawee County, MI to Albert G. and Minnie F. (Ehlert) Minster. Fred was graduated from Adrian High School with the Class of 1931. He was an entrepreneur from an early age, caddying at the Lenawee Hills Golf Course, delivering ice to households, Madison Schools bus driver, carrying water to the workers constructing US 223 from Adrian to Rome Center, and delivering oil for Burton Oil Company located at Madison Center. In the early 1950's he and Charlie Baron purchased the Baron Minster car sales on south Main Street in Adrian. Fred sold cars until the partnership dissolved with Fred Minster moving his family to Devils Lake, Manitou Beach where he owned the Minster Boat Sales. Fred was always in search of new adventures in business when he and Vaughn Mingus created the Geneva Boat Company at Hudson, MI where fiberglass fish tanks, fiberglass speed boats and pontoons were manufactured. As owner and sales representative, Fred traveled to much of the southern Midwest selling and delivering fish tanks, pontoons and boats. Minster RV Park which he and Leta had purchased in 1938 on Round Lake became his refuge and entertainment in later years. He enjoyed relaxing, thinking, playing cards and reminiscing about what a wonderful life and family, God had given him. Fred loved learning about and sharing the Minster family history.

Fred married Leta (Yeutter) Minster on Friday, October 13, 1937 in Adrian. Their daughters are Margretha (Lloyd) Harden, of Hudson, MI and Lucretia (Roger) Rutan, of Brooklyn, MI. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren include Wesley Harden, Waldron, MI, Margery (David) Mabus, Marshall, MI, Levi Yoakum, Josh Yoakum, Rhonda (Pete) Benfant, Cody and Austin Benfant, Brooklyn, MI, Rod (Kristin) Rutan, Kedzie and Conner Rutan, Ida, MI. Others who Fred cherished include sister-in-law, Bernice Minster, friend, Eunice Bailey, and many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. Preceding Fred were his parents, his wife, Leta in 2000, his brothers, Martin Minster and Elmer Minster, in infancy, and his sister, Helena Adams.

Fred was a member of the Cadmus Presbyterian Church and the Rome Grange, #293 (1952). At church, he served on the session, on many committees and was an elder. He and Leta entertained many foreign exchange visitors through the Rome Grange Agricultural Program (1960s) and through educational programs. Countries represented were Brazil, Italy, Africa, China, Laos and Iran. In 1972 Fred and Leta sponsored the Chansamone family from Laos during the communist invasion of that area. The seven Chansamone children continue to call Fred "Grandpa."

Fred was a Department of Social Service Volunteer for many years during which time he drove clients to their doctor appointments.

The celebration of Fred's life will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 21, 2009 at Wagley Funeral Home with his nephew, Jim Yeutter officiating. Burial will follow at East Rome Cemetery. Friends may visit the family at the funeral home on Friday from 3 to 8 p.m. You may also sign the register book or send condolences at www.wagleyfuneralhome.com. Contributions in memory of Fred may be made to the charity of the donor's choice. Envelopes are available at Wagley Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **20**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 AM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home and Cremation Service
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Frederick Minster

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ My children are a product of the enormous generosity of the Minster family. I married Sitthisak, and he spoke often of the Minster family and we sent them cards for many years. I never Met Mr Minster but knew he had to have had the heart of Jesus for taking in the Chansamone family. My two kids have been taught of your kindness and compassion. As a christian family we try to emulate Jesus's work in our daily life as Mr Minster did. It was a fluke I found this sad news today. We had to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. I have the wonderful gift of my two children because of Mr Minster and his family. God bless you. God does indeed have his angels on earth and the Minster's are just that.

Sincerely and gratefully;

Cathie, Jimmy, and Diana Chansamone ex wife and children of Sitthisak Chansamone##imported-begin##*Cathie, Jimmy Jr and Diana Chansamone* ##imported-end##

March 20, 2009 at 07:52 PM



“ I have sooooo many wonderful memories of growing-up with our two families. My most cherished is your Dad giving me a ride in a Chris Craft boat when I was a very young boy. Thank you, Fred!##imported-begin##Victor Brittain##imported-end##

March 02, 2009 at 07:28 PM



“ When my parents Malyachid and Konemany Chansamone brought myself and my six siblings to America, I knew even at the age of eight that we didn't get here from Laos by some sheer miracle. It was the help and sponsorship of Grandpa Fred and Grandma Letta and their family. We were frightened at first because everything was so different and new. But when Grandpa Fred and Grandma Letta took us in they took us in as a family. They kept us close and watched over us. They did a great job because I felt safe when we were living in Michigan. My most vivid memory was always with Grandma and Grandpa. I experienced with them the first snow fall and the first boat ride. I remembered Grandpa and Grandma would come over frequently and grandma would help my mom learn to read English. They also took my parents and my six siblings to church functions so that we can assimilate into the community. I now wondered how they managed to drive all of us there.

How do you thank someone who basically saved you and your family's life. His generosity is beyond measure. Even though we spent a short time together, Grandpa Fred and Grandma Letta and their family has always been in our thoughts. He has touched our life in so many ways. By his example, Nick and I have been taking exchange students just like how Grandpa and Grandma took dad in when he came to the U.S. to study.

Ourt thoughts and prayer to Grandpa Fred, Grandma Letta and the entire family. He is an inspiration to all of us.

Love,

*Soam and Nick Tran###imported-begin##Soam and Nick
Tran###imported-end##*

February 25, 2009 at 12:46 PM



“ *Lucretia,
I just read about your dad. What a long and busy life he had!*

*I think of you often when I am "in the neighborhood".
I hope you and Roger are well and enjoying "retirement".
Too much time has passed since our days in Onsted! I'm still
working with alternative students--when I stop liking it I'll
retire!##imported-begin##Linda Brennan##imported-end##*

February 23, 2009 at 07:39 PM



“ *Lucretia and Margretha and families, I remember "Dad" Minster
from our high school days and how much fun it always was to be at
your house. He had a great sense of humor and he and your mom
were ever willing to put up with all our adolescent shenanigans! May
it help to know an old family friend has you in her thoughts and
prayers.##imported-begin##Jean Howard##imported-end##*

February 21, 2009 at 12:41 PM



“ *My prayers and thoughts are with you. I remember Fred as one of
the kindest gentelman I cared for at Lenawee Medical. He was
always smiling and took time to see how my family was. I loved
listening to his stories from his days at the RV park. Thank you for
allowing him to become part of our family.##imported-
begin##Elizabeth Waters##imported-end##*

February 21, 2009 at 07:40 AM



“ Fred would be my Dad's (Robert Tonneberger) second cousin. His grandmother was a sister to Anne Kitner Tonneberger.

He was surely a very special person!##imported-begin##Sandra (Tonneberger) Palkovic##imported-end##

February 20, 2009 at 10:57 PM



“ Dear Margretha, Loretia & Families

Fred was one of the people that you meet in life who was definitely "one of a kind". As we walk through life we meet people like Fred that enrich our life and add to it. Cathy and my prayers are with you at this time and we pray that you will have that peace that passes all understanding. These are hard times when we lose a loved one but we take encouragement when we know that person was a born-again Christian and we will be able to see them on the otherside for all of eternity. God Bless you All.

DJ Chatfield##imported-begin##D.j. & Cathy Chatfield##imported-end##

February 20, 2009 at 06:11 PM



“ Margretha & Lucretia

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Wishing you sympathy and comfort in your loss.##imported-begin##Judy (Langham) Greenfield & Joyce (Langham) Bump##imported-end##

February 20, 2009 at 04:56 PM



“ MARGRETHA & LUCRETIA:

I WAS SADDENED TO READ OF YOUR FATHERS PASSING IN THE TELEGRAM. YOUR FATHER WAS VERY DIVERSIFIED PERSON AND HAD A VERY ACTIVE INTERESTING LIFE. I WELL REMEMBER HIM IN THE MID 50'S AT HIS MARINA, YOU GIRLS ALSO.

JOHN##imported-begin##JOHN BETZ##imported-end##

February 20, 2009 at 01:49 PM



“ *With sympathy and great memories,*

Lois##imported-begin##Lois Ehlert MacGeorge##imported-end##

February 20, 2009 at 11:26 AM



“ Dear family

I was saddened to hear of your loss.

I have lost contact with many of the family. It was so nice that Margretha got in touch with Stephanie.

Your mom and dad played a great part in my life, as good friends, church leaders, Kononia leadership, and their love of my folks.

I know he will be missed, but the joy of our memories will be with us always.

God be with you now and always.

Joyce and family##imported-begin##Joyce Baker Hendi##imported-end##

February 20, 2009 at 01:50 AM



“ My prayers and thoughts are with you. I remember Mr. Minster as a good and kindly neighbor on Richards Road in Home Acres.##imported-begin##Gene Sanderson##imported-end##

February 19, 2009 at 08:19 PM



“ From your Cape Cod family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time. We will never forget how Fred and Leta took us under their wing and gave us the royal family treatment. Love Jan and Jim##imported-begin##Jim and Janet Yeutter##imported-end##

February 19, 2009 at 07:06 PM



“ Fred will be missed, he was always so good to me over the years at the marina. I will always remember Fred & Leta taking care of my many boat needs and the past several years at the RV park. What great smiles they always shared with everyone. They were two great friends. Jerry Hughes###imported-begin##Jerry Hughes###imported-end##

February 19, 2009 at 04:12 PM



“ Dear Roger and Lucretia;
Sorry to hear about your father, he sure lived a blessed long life. You both are in prayers. Keep his memories alive...God Bless. Denice###imported-begin##Denice Combs###imported-end##

February 19, 2009 at 01:42 PM



“ Dear Lucretia and Roger and Family,
Mike and I were very sorry to hear of Fred's passing. Although we were members of the park only a few years we sure enjoyed all the stories your dad liked to share with us. He has given so many a "haven" to retreat to over the years and your efforts have made him proud.
Take care,
Karen and Mike###imported-begin##Karen and Mike McGee###imported-end##

February 19, 2009 at 12:46 PM



“ To the Minster family, you had the Dad of all Dads. He gave me my first job as clean up boy at the age of 8 or 9. I would boat across the lake in the morning and wait for your Dad to come over to the shop. He would send me with Roscco or someone to pick up boates in Cadillac, now that I think about it he may have just wanted to get rid of me for a day. He sure was a great guy and I loved him.

Thanks

Mike Reid##imported-begin##Michael Reid##imported-end##

February 19, 2009 at 12:55 AM



“ To Aunt Lucretia, uncle Roger, Rhonda and Rod, My fondest memory of Fred is as a teenager visiting the RV park in the summer. He was always warm and friendly and made sure that my Mark and I always felt welcome. God Bless.##imported-begin##Doug Fouty##imported-end##

February 18, 2009 at 11:56 PM



“ What a worthwhile, full life he led. We'll miss his sharp intelligence, his interesting stories and his kindness.##imported-begin##Sonja and Gerald##imported-end##

February 18, 2009 at 08:39 PM



“ my prayers and thoughts are with all of you##imported-begin##Donna Roback Nieman##imported-end##

February 18, 2009 at 07:31 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear Fred has passed. I often think of the picnics and "circle" meetings at the lake and spending the night at the cottage as a kid. I just loved spending time with Aunt Leta and Uncle Fred. Things were always so quiet and peaceful there...so unlike my house ! I just loved to listen and admire his huge clock collection ! Oooohhh and the wonderful apricot tree, we all would eat them until we were almost sick ! Lots of love, hugs and kisses to all~Kristie##imported-begin##Kristie (Fox) Ruddick##imported-end##

February 18, 2009 at 04:54 PM



“ our thoughts and prayers are with you at this timemay he rest in peace...##imported-begin##The Victor Heil Family##imported-end##

February 18, 2009 at 03:43 PM



“ Our Sympathy are with you and your families. I have fond memories of your dad growing up. Will never forget the stories that our parents shared with us kids.##imported-begin##Ned & Becky (Brittain) Rubel##imported-end##

February 18, 2009 at 03:23 PM



“ I am blessed to have known Fred. His kindness, unwavering smile and help with my ongoing research projects were greatly valued and will be sorely missed.##imported-begin##Dan Cherry##imported-end##

February 18, 2009 at 12:36 PM



“ Dear Lucretia and family, My thoughts and prayers are with you during these sad times. Fred was a dear friend, and I'll certainly miss his smile and presence. Marie##imported-begin##Marie Littler##imported-end##

February 18, 2009 at 08:19 AM



“ Nancy & I are deeply saddened by your loss. Our condolences, Warren##imported-begin##Warren & Nancy Wildeman##imported-end##

February 18, 2009 at 08:02 AM



“ Margretha and Lucretia, my thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of grief and remembrance. It is hard to lose a parent, but just remember he had a good, long life and the blessings you shared were tremendous. Thinking of you. Love, Joyce##imported-begin##Joyce Hyatt Colvin##imported-end##

February 18, 2009 at 07:49 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and yours in this time of sorrow. May your father rest in peace.##imported-begin##Mary Anne Szczurek##imported-end##

February 18, 2009 at 06:46 AM



“ *From: Pon Sears and Chansamone family.*

Dear Grandpa,

We are so grateful for your wonderful generosity to give us a chance to start a new life in America. We are so thankful to meet a great man like you and your family. You are our family. We love you and will think of you always. We will keep your family in our prayers during this trying time.

Sincerely and Regards,

*Chansamone Family##imported-begin##Naphaphone Chansamone
Sears##imported-end##*

February 18, 2009 at 12:34 AM



“ *(uncle Fred) Some of my best childhood memories were at the lake as a child. I could hardly wait ,when my parents said we were going to the lake! Running down the hill and jumping in. So many memories. My prayers go out to the family at this time. There will never be another aunt Leta and Uncle Fred. Take care. Sharlene Drake.##imported-begin##Sharlene (Hoffmeister) Drake##imported-end##*

February 17, 2009 at 06:25 PM