



Allan J. Cootware

March 31, 1932 - January 17, 2012

ALLAN COOTWARE NORWAY- Allan Joseph "Red" Cootware, age 79 of Norway, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at Pinecrest Medical Care Facility in Powers, Michigan. He was born on March 31, 1932 in Crystal Falls, Michigan and attended local schools. Allan served his country by enlisting in the U.S. Army and proudly served during the Korean Conflict, as part of the 82nd Airborne Rangers. On July 3, 1957, he married Rosie (Baso) Fuller, who preceded him in death on November 30, 1997. They resided for many years in the same house in Norway where they always welcomed visitors, friends and family. There was always room at their table and there were many shared meals and Holidays spent there. He worked at United Abrasive Grain in Quinnesec and later formed RC Construction Company together with his friend and business partner, William "Bill" Rabenberg. He also worked in the construction business in Alaska, where his favorite hobby there became panning for gold. Closer to home, he also served for several years as the Vulcan Town Constable, and worked for the Dickinson County Sherriff's Department, spending many Friday nights at the back gate for the stock car races at the Dickinson County Fairgrounds. He was also active in boat patrol for Dickinson County. After the passing of his wife, Rosie, he found a devoted and caring partner, Shirley Mande, and was fortunate to spend many years together with her. They shared not only many interests, but a love of family and friends and a desire to help others. Allan was a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose #1474, the Cleveland Chapter #23, D.A.V, the

Hall- DeWinter Post #145, American Legion, and the 82nd Airborne Western UP Chapter. He participated in many events with the 82nd Airborne Division including those at Fort Bragg, near Fayetteville, North Carolina. He helped to open the World War II Glider and Military Museum in Iron Mountain, which celebrates the history of the glider pilots. He could also often be found at Bomber's Golf Course, usually playing during the week with his friends, with the special achievement of scoring a Hole in one there. His interests included history and genealogy, where he traced his family heritage. He enjoyed fly fishing and hunting. He hunted for many years with the Wender family, and later took great pride and joy when he bought land and built, with the help of his family, his own camp in Loretto. He especially looked forward to each Deer Hunting Season, and welcoming the Lower Peninsula Hunters for the Michigan season. He also taught us all another kind of hunting: for Morel mushrooms, the art of which all his children have come to appreciate. He taught us all a love of nature. He loved staying busy and doing projects for friends & family, even if family/friends weren't always certain they wanted the projects done. His love of puttering and his knowledge of carpentry and construction served us all well. In addition to his partner, Shirley, he is survived by four children, Patricia Fuller of Hermansville, Dennis (Cherie) Fuller of Green Bay, James (Linda) Cootware of Norway, and Diane (Brian) Wallace. of Howell, Michigan; one granddaughter, Niki (Rob) Sanders, one great granddaughter, Ardriana Sanders all of Niagara, one grandson, Kyle Cootware of Norway and Nicole Robinson (Jeff) Kehoe and her son, Liam, of Marquette, Michigan who he also thought of like his granddaughter/great grandson. He is also survived by one sister, Phyllis Cootware of Crystal Falls. He was also preceded in death by his mother, Arlene Hawkins, and several brothers and sisters. Allan will be sadly missed and remembered by us all. Family will greet friends on Saturday, January 21, from 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. at the Ortman Funeral Home in Norway. A memorial service will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home with Peter Carl

Tribute Wall

BB

“ Red was so loved by our whole family. I know my boys used every golf ball he ever found for them! And Bill & I sipped from the hooch bottle more than a few times! I know how important he was to each of you. He was to us.
Rest assured he will live on in our memories as he will in yours.
Peace.

Bill and Bev Barton - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Ted and I will always remember Red lovingly. Ted had high regard for him and I will always remember time spent with him when Di and I were up for the Women's Wheeler weekends – lots of laughs and unforgettable moments. I loved it when he came down state to visit Di and Bri, and seeing that big smile of his when I would hand him some of my homemade raspberry jam. I extend my deepest sympathy to all of you my friends – Shirley, Di and Bri, Jimmy and Linda, Patti, and Denny and Cherie. Love, Karen and Ted

Karen Barber - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TZ

“ We will miss our great friend and cousin Al. He was a stalwart bastion in our lives and we know he is in a far, far better place now. Our Love and prayers go out to all of Al's loving family and friends.
Be Blessed, Todd & Suzie

Todd & Suzanne Zecchin - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ I am so sorry to hear about your dad passing away. I have so many fond memories of him and of all of you. There were many great times at your house. I am keeping all of you in my thoughts and prayers. Trudy

Trudy Carlson Stachowiak - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ To the Cootware Family and friends-- My condolences on Allan's passing. I knew him from childhood my childhood in the late 1950's whn he became a Deputy Sheriff. He light up every room. My parents thought the world of him. I had only been able to see him at the c County Fair since moving downstate but we had a great time carching up. I will miss Red.

Jason Julian/ DeWitt MI - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ Red will be missed. I can still picture his welcoming smile. He would without fail meet both friends and strangers with that famous smile and his can do attitude. Al was a glass half full kinda guy and a true inspiration to me. He leaves me with many fond memories. All that new him are blessed. Red, you were truly a great American and an even greater man. My Condolences, Steve

Stephen Bloch - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Al Cootware Family: I considered your Dad my friend for over 40 years. He has been an inspiration in my life and I will never forget him. I wish I could attend his funeral. My prayers are with you all while knowing Red's great sense of humor will always be with us. Jeff

Jeffrey Paupore - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ It has been a while since we last ran into your father and our friend around town. He will always be Mr. Cootware to us. He always had time for us to talk and he showed a genuine interest in our family. I will always remember that special laugh and that particular way his face would light up and you new to beware....remember to hold your memories close for they will help all of you in this most difficult time. in our thoughts and prayers...

Ann & Pat Degenauer - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ I have many wonderful memories of Al and Rosie. So many good times when they came to Mn. Sending my deepest sympathy to the whole family. So glad we got to see you all this summer. What a fun time and how special to see Al. Sending Love, Prayers & Blessing.

Janis Anderson - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Both of us will always remember Red. He was so much fun to be around. Always eager to give a hug. Steve won't forget the Hooch. He was a loving part of our lives, as well as yours, Diane and Brian.

Steve & Maureen Wallace - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ We were so sad to learn the news of Red's passing. He was such a kind and giving man. We have so many wonderful memories of Red, one of him being with us the day Jacquelyn was born and taking her home with us for the first time. Red was so wonderful with her. We arrived home and he had gone out and bought her a new high chair, even though she would not be able to sit and eat in that high chair for six more months, and a new stroller, which we did use a lot as it came with an additional car seat that was used on our several trips to the U.P. to visit Grandma and Papa Red.
Much Love, Lynn, Ben and Jacquelyn

Lynn Mande - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM