



Richard Bedard

February 23, 1928 - April 18, 2008

RICHARD BEDARD WAUCEDAH- Richard Owen Bedard, age 80 of Waucedah died Friday, April 18, 2008, while doing what he loved best, his farm chores. He was born February 23, 1928 in Gladstone, MI., where his grandmother was a midwife. His parents were George and Aurora (La Pointe) Bedard of Kingsford. He was a very active hunter, fair board member and fisherman. Richard married Barbara Jean Dishaw (the love of his life) on October 24, 1953 at St. Mary's and St. Joseph's in Iron Mountain. After a brief time working at AO Smith's in Milwaukee, the couple settled in Waucedah where they had a dairy farm for 12 years, before adventuring into beef farming for another 43 years. Before he married, Richard was an Army Staff Sergeant stationed at Fort Irwin in Marysville, CA. He was inducted in the first draft of the Korean Conflict. Studying agriculture and business at both MSU and NMU, he just recently was certified as a "Citizen Planner". He was on the Waucedah Township Board, the Township Association, the Dickinson County Board of Commissioners, OEDP, CUPPAD, and worked on the Dickinson County Construction Code. What made him most proud was his place on the Dickinson County Fair Board. Beginning in 1960, he volunteered on the Fair Board for a total of 48 years, most of that time as the Chairman. The Horse Arena Pavilion was named after him, in honor of his efforts in planning and building it. Richard served as the Waucedah Township Supervisor and Zoning Commissioner; he was an active member of the Hall-DeWinter #145 Post of the American Legion, and a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus. In addition,

he was a member of the Farmer's Union, Michigan Farm Bureau, a founding member of the Norway-Vulcan Civics Club, and Farmer of the Year in 1988. He worked many years at Michigan Consolidated Gas Company, both in the Escanaba and Iron Mountain offices. During his early years, he surveyed most of the farms placed in the "Soil Set Aside" program in the local area for the USDA. Richard was a life long 4-H member and leader, earning many awards. Richard's love of God, family, farm and community lead him on a lifelong journey of tireless devotion to them all. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and community. Richard is survived by Barbara Jean, his bride of almost 55 years. His children Ann (Don) Dames of La Porte, Indiana, Gail (Everett) Wood of Manistique, MI, Thomas (Lisa) Bedard of Waucedah, MI, and Jo-Anne Walz of Diamondale, MI. He had eleven grandchildren, Benjamin (Trisha) Dames, Nick (Kelly) Dames, Laura (Jason) Coffee, Kristi Wood, Erik Walz, Amanda Bedard, Tyler Walz, Everett Matthew Wood, William Wood, Briana Walz, Angela Jean Bedard, and his great grandson Cameron Dames. He is also survived by his brother Edsel Bedard of Escanaba, his sister Shirley Bellin of Quinnesec, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother George Bedard Jr., and his son-in-law Don Walz. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, April 22 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Miner-Ortman Funeral Home in Norway. American Legion service will be held at 6:30 p.m. Knights of Columbus service will be held at 7 p.m. Prayers will be held on Wednesday, April 23 at 10:30 a.m. at the Miner-Ortman Funeral Home. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday at 11 a.m. at St. Barbara's Church in Vulcan, with Fr. James Roetzer, presiding. The committal service will follow at Cemetery Park in Iron Mountain.

Tribute Wall

DR

“ Please accept my belated condolences... (Our family was out of state when this happened and we are now just catching up on the news.) You know how much I enjoyed talking with Dick; I loved his frankness about issues near to his heart.

Doni-Mae B. Rauch - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

HB

“ Dear Barb and family,
We were saddened to hear of your husband's death. We have fond memories of him and were priviledged to be able to spend time with him on the convention bus. With Sympathy,
Carol Saari
Lynn Gierke and Genny,
Rick Freeman
Steve Palosaari
Jim and Debbie Winquist
Dan and Denise Kinnunen
Erwin Massie
John and Diane Mattila
Bonnie DeCaire-Jones
Sandy Ahola
and the rest of the board

Houghton County Fair Board - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Dear Barbara and Family, I was so saddened to hear of the loss of your dear husband and father! I have many fond memories of him through the years with JoAnn, Gail and Ann, in 4-H, and at the Co. Fairs and at your farm. I will always rememer Dick's warm smile and sense of humor. I will keep you all in my prayers.

Sue Moraska - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MO

“ Dear Barbara and kids,
I am sad I could'nt be there tues.
We are in fl.I sure enjoyed Dicks over the years,Wording with him at
Mlch Con and the visits at the farm.My favorate story was the time I
stopped to vesit and that mean rooster attacked me then the
dog.Dick told me he was only around because he made the
winter.God Bless Mike and Deb Oberdorfer

MIKE AND DEBBIE OBERDORFER - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ Barb and family, I truly enjoyed getting to know you and Dick on the
Dickinson County Planning Commission. I am truly sorry to hear of
your loss. Dick was a fine gentleman and always a pleasure to visit
with. Thanks for your friendship these past few years, Ray Arnett

Ray Arnett - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AA

“ I am so sorry I cannot be there with all of you (my Fair family). Dave
and I are at our other home in Vero Beach, FL unsil May 4. Please
accept our sincere condolences and I think you know my prayers
and thoughts are with all of you.
LOVE TO ALL....ANNETTE

Annette Abdersen - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Our loss is God's gain. There are very few people that I have met
that can hold a candle to such a gracious, caring man. I am honored
to have had the privilage of knowing such a special man.

Michael Parent - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ *To the Bedard Family,
Our deepest sympathies in the loss of your Dear Husband and Dad.
Such a fine gentleman he was.*

Allan Huntley - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *Dear Barb and Family, Our sincere condolences on the loss of
Richard. Chuck will miss talking farming and tractors with him. You
are in our thoughts and prayers. Sincerely,
Chuck and Sally Schnurer*

Sally and Chuck Schnurer - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ *There are some people who can light up a room with just a smile.
Richard was one of those people. I think that's what I'll remember
most about him. His smile and sense of humor. He always had a
way of finding humor in any situation and made me laugh every time
I saw him. That was his way of bringing joy into the world. Quiet
strength expressed with a smile. My thoughts and prayers are with
you always.*

Lisa Temple - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *Our deepest sympathy to Barbra and the whole family on your loss.
I always enjoyed visiting with Dick; I most enjoyed hearing his
stories, the memories of them will stay with me but I know I'll miss
having the opportunity to hear and learn more.
Mike Schira & family*

Mike Schira - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM