



## Robert E. Ray, Sr.

June 22, 1920 - April 14, 2012

ROBERT RAY NORWAY - Robert "Rugger" E. Ray, Sr., 91, died peacefully Saturday, April 14, 2012, in the company of his loving children at his home in Norway. Government records report his birth as having occurred sometime between the dates of June 20 and June 23, 1920 in Pikeville, Kentucky, the son of John R. Ray and Mary Catherine Connelly. Rugger moved to Norway in 1926 and graduated from Norway High School in 1938. Like many other young men seeking a way to help provide for their families during the difficult years of the Great Depression, he proudly joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and worked on various projects still in use today. Following his time in the CCCs, he worked as a powder monkey in the iron mines in Vulcan before he joined the US Army. He served in the 348th Engineer Combat Battalion in the Normandy Campaign, the Northern France Campaign and the Rhineland Campaign of the European Theatre in World War II, earning three Bronze Battle Stars, and he was wounded in action in Holland, for which he was awarded a Purple Heart. He returned to Norway after the war where he met and fell in love with Betty Ann Caddy. They were married from 1947 until her death in 1965. He later met and fell in love with his second wife, Patricia Ann Mikolajczyk; they were married from 1968 until her death in 1993. Rugger had eight children, fifteen grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren. Over the years, he worked in construction, in the cattle industry, and as a foreman for a cedar-log home company from which he purchased the sawmill he operated well into his 80's. He was lifetime member of the VFW and a

member of St. Mary's Catholic Church. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wives, his daughter, Darlene, and his siblings, Patricia, Dorothy, Roy, Genevieve, and Francis. He is survived by his brother, Joseph, and sister, Irene; and his children, John, Robert Jr. (Cheryl), Richard, Jean, Cindy (Mike) Howe, Thomas, and Scott (Carmen); and his grandchildren, Jeremy, Francesco "Cheech," Vincenzo "Vinnie," Matthew, Elizabeth, Melinda, Keri, Gwen, Betty Lou "Boo," Bobbie Jo, Jacob, Brittany, Katie, Amanda, and Isaac; and his great-grandchildren, Teressa, Ashlee, Conner, Jamin, Janelle, Jalee, Katrina, Audrey, Gabriella, Devon, Desiree, Dominique, Khloe, and Kayden. He had many nieces, nephews, and lifelong friends who will be remembered by his children. The family would like to thank special caregivers, Dr. Toby Gendron, Joanie, Sheila, Chelsea, and Crystal, among many others. In lieu of flowers, the family would like to recognize Rugger's two best friends, Sparky and Morty, and asks that donations be sent to Springlake Humane Society.

# Tribute Wall

PS

“ Keeping your family in prayer as everyone adjusts to life without your dad. To us it is always a mixed blessing when a person passes -- the loved one is gone on to meet his Maker and is in a better place so we're happy for them but adjustments for the living can be chaotic for awhile with "sorting out" the things that need to be done and typically the various family members have varied and different reactions from day to day. Chet Oleksy once told Mona's dad when he lost his mom -- "The longer you have them, the harder it is to see them go". I always remember that, as when my Grandma passed, my dad had a terrible time but I had a sense of relief. She was ready to go and I did all of my grieving for her as I saw her "fade" away -- trying to still remember her as the vibrant person she was, but watching the years take its' toll on her body -- her mind was good til the end but she was frustrated that her body was failing. Please know that we care for you during this time of loss and you will be in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers. We love you!

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**Patrick and Mona Servia** - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

M(

“ I was sad to hear of Uncle Ruggers passing. I have sweet memories of sitting around the kitchen table as a child listening to all the adults talk. I remember Uncle Rigger laughing. He had a way of making me feel welcome just by the way he would look my way in the middle of it all and smile just at me. I have always held a fondness for him in my heart. I also remember Aunti Betty's hugs. For me being at their home was always a safe, happy place to be.

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**Mary Burg (Moln)** - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

WE

“ Thank you Uncle Rugger for sharing your life with us. We are richer and wiser as a result. I will miss you and fondly remember sitting and fishing with you. Mike

William M. Erwin - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DV

“ Sorry for your great loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers. We will remember his wonderful smile. Take care. Don and Chris

Don and Chris VanEybnde - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ I would like to say to all the family that our prayers will be with you. Your dad was a great man and will be sadly missed.

Chris Meneghini - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. Uncle Rugger was a good man and a dear friend to our family, he will be missed. I have many fond memories of our visits. James

James Erwin - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Although, I didn't know your father well, it was obvious how important he was to your family (as I have had the chance to know some of you). My prayers are with you all during this difficult time.

Susan Kerr - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM