



Jacob D. "Jake" Elenbaas

February 24, 1922 - October 28, 2015

Jacob D. "Jake" Elenbaas, age 93, passed away on Wednesday, October 28, 2015. Jake was born on February 24, 1922 in Cadillac to the late Pete and Berneda Elenbaas.

In his youth, Jake signed up to work in the Civil Conservation Corp. When WWII called, Jake fought in the Philippine Islands. He was awarded a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman Badge, South Pacific Campaign Medal and the Philippine Liberation Medal. Jake was a true War Hero to his country.

After the war, Jake became a top notch automotive specialist in Cadillac for many years. Jake moved from the automotive field to sales when he began the Cadillac Mobile Homes business. He and his second wife, Ivy, worked long hours to develop a very thriving and successful enterprise. Jake always had a "need for speed" : motorcycles, boats and stock cars. His red, 1932 Ford, #17 captured many victories throughout Michigan in the 1950s. A crash at the Cadillac Fair Grounds ended his stock car career in 1957.

Jake was first married to Arlene Bennet of Cadillac. Arlene passed away in 1999. Jake's second wife, Ivora passed away on June 22, 2012. Jake was preceded in death by sisters: Helen Kidder, Geraldine Hower and his younger brother, Donald Elenbaas.

He is survived by three sisters: Betty Huston of Clio, Michigan, Dorothy (Jack) Oliver of Cadillac and Sharon (Bernie) Case of Cadillac. Jake leaves behind four sons: Jake (Sue) Elenbaas of Hernando Beach, Florida; Mike (Kitty) Elenbaas of Farmington Hills, Michigan, Tim (Char) Elenbaas of Cadillac, Bryan Elenbaas of Cadillac. Included are two step daughters: Bonnie (Jerry) Hawkins of Cadillac and Sandy (Mike) Deming of Cadillac. There are many, many grandchildren and great grandchildren that will miss this War Hero.

A graveside gathering of the family will be held Thursday, October 29, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at Maple Hill Cemetery in Cadillac. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Tribute Wall

AG

“ *A loving man who loved all his family.*

Aileen Gilchrist - June 14, 2016 at 03:35 PM

BH

“ *Dad, it won't be the same going to the Senior Lunch without you. I will miss the talks we had, some serious and some that brought out a laugh or two. You seemed to always look at the good side of things. I will always remember all the things you did with the grandkids, good and bad.*

Love you and will miss you you daughter

Bonnie Hawkins - November 04, 2015 at 04:01 PM

ME

“ *Thanks to all those that contributed to a great life for my father --- especially Bryan/Tim/Bonnie for seeing him to the "end"*

-- we will be indebted to you forever for making it easier for Dad.

Mike Elenbaas

Mike Elenbaas - November 03, 2015 at 08:02 AM

JB

“ *I will miss seeing him around town. It was always special to me when I saw him because he looked exactly like my dad. It must be that the "Sands" gene was in him. His sisters also told me that he acted like my dad, like when he went to sleep in the middle of a conversation and other things. My husband and I will miss him.*

Jacque Bruyette - November 01, 2015 at 08:11 AM

MF

“ You will be missed greatly grandpa.

Mari Fuzi - October 29, 2015 at 09:54 PM

KV

“ He always did like to drive fast! Such a loving man. So much so, that he actually adopted his step-daughters when they were in their 30s. So many wonderful memories. Some crazy things he did with us grandkids too! We will miss you Gramps.

Kim Vandercook - October 29, 2015 at 05:28 PM

SF

“ I saw Jake a few times at the Moose.
When I told him my name, he said yes we were neighbors. Still had the memory.

Steve Firkins - October 29, 2015 at 11:18 AM