



Royce Dale Kniss

March 9, 1927 - March 24, 2017

Royce Dale Kniss, 90, peacefully went to be with his Lord from his home on March 24, 2017. He was born the youngest of six children on March 9, 1927, in Kalkaska County, the son of the late George and Eva (Benedict) Kniss. Dale had an adventurous spirit, always loving travel and anything having to do with the out-of-doors. At sixteen, he left his home in Sigma to sail the Great Lakes on the ore freighters, eventually manning the ship's wheel. Still before turning eighteen, wanting to take part in the War effort, he joined the Merchant Marines and had many interesting stories to tell his family about the "Victory" ships on which he sailed. At eighteen, with World War II in its last months, he was finally able to join the Army, serving as a medic, and being honorably discharged as a sergeant. After serving the country he loved, Dale returned home to marry his high school sweetheart, Ruth Doyle, on December 12, 1947. Together they raised five children and were blessed with twelve grandchildren, twenty-nine great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. He and Ruth were members of the Kalkaska Church of Christ and were devotedly married for sixty-nine years. Dale was generous throughout his lifetime with his carpentry and masonry skills, undertaking projects for family and friends. The Kniss children recall a very loving couple, working hard together, setting an example in honesty and Christian values, the legacy of which will be felt for generations to come. Dale worked, until retirement in 1989, as foreman of the Tool and Die Department of Wayne Wire in Kalkaska. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; his children Karen (Harold) Rooksberry of Buckley, Janice Stewart of Manton, Vicki Kniss of South Boardman, and David (Mary) Kniss of Rapid River; and daughter-in-law Cathy Kniss of Frederic. He is also survived by his brother Percy Daryl Kniss of Travers City. He was preceded in death by a son, Mark Kniss; his sister Donna Jackson and his brothers Gordon, Boyd, and Wayne. Cremation has taken place according to Dale's wishes. Memorials can be made in Dale's honor to Munson Grayling Hospice, c/o Munson Healthcare Foundation, 1150 Medical Campus Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Tribute Wall

LI

“ I don't remember him all that well; however I remember him being a warm person to be around. We'd visit on rare occasions. I think he passed when I was in 3rd grade. I remember him liking toy model planes. If he were around now, I'd ask to hear more of his stories, I'm 17, will be 18 next month. I find these stories very important and I would've loved to ask about his experiences now. - Lillian Taylor (Great Granddaughter)



Lillian - December 01, 2025 at 05:27 AM



“ Royce Dale Kniss

January 30, 2023 at 04:02 AM



“ Royce Dale Kniss

January 30, 2023 at 01:03 AM

MJ

“ Sending thoughts and prayers. What a lovely family which is a great testament to Dale and Ruth. May God give you peace thru this difficult time.

Marilyn Jacobs - April 02, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ Uncle Dale always made time to stop doing whatever he was doing and encourage me and give me advice when I was a little pain that lived kitty corner from him and Aunt Ruth. Always had a laugh and a smile that was so genuine and contagious!! You will be sorely missed. Thank you dear lord for the time I was allotted to be near such a great role model and true believer who always steered me on the right path!! Dear family my prayers are with you!

Al Jackson - March 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Uncle Dale was a wonderful man. I alway enjoyed getting to visit him and Aunt Ruth when I was younger. Have great memories from family reunions too. He always had a smile and made you feel right at home. He will be miss. Our prayers go out to the family.

Robbie Haviland - March 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *Mr. Kniss was an honorable member of our greatest generation. What a beautiful family legacy. May God comfort and sustain you. Melissa (Sherman) Sole*

M Sole - March 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM