



Louis J. Stephenson

FEB 19, 1940 - MAR 2, 2011



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In Marine City, Michigan on February 19, 1940, Leo George and Jeanette Lucille (Wiederwohl) Stephenson were blessed with the birth of Louis John Stephenson. On March 2, 2011 God took him home for a well-earned rest. His first memories were of the WWII effort in the United States. Because his mother was a professional seamstress, she designed a military uniform for him to display his patriotism. He shared memories of the family listening to the radio every night to reports regarding the progress of the war, remembered tokens for flour, sugar, and gasoline, and dividing metals for curbside pick-up to be used in the war effort. In many ways, Lou had an idyllic childhood. Hunting, fishing, ice skating, swimming, and playing baseball filled his off-time. But as young as seven years old his father, a professional duck hunter and fishing guide, expected Lou to act as the golfer, fish cleaner, and boat scrubber. In his spare time he pushed a metal wheeled lawn mower (which he swore weighed more than him) on the sidewalk to drum up business cutting grass and to sell fish he caught on his own time. With that money, at the age of seven, he purchased his first bicycle: a maroon Western Flyer. Lou had a milk truck route before he was licensed to drive. Additionally, he had jobs at two different gas stations during his school days at Holy Cross High School. He saved and purchased his pride and joy: a 1949 maroon Mercury convertible with fender skirts. But later, his pride and joy for street dragging was a 1956 four on the floor Chevrolet V8. Surprisingly, he admitted to an equal number of wins and losses. In high school Lou played guard in basketball and running back in football. After graduating from Holy Cross in 1958, Lou was hired on the Great Lakes Ore Boats to shovel coal in the boilers as his Grandpa Stephenson had for decades. Lou then began his first union membership via the Union Seafarers Association. In 1960 he enlisted in the Navy as a boiler tender and ultimately achieved the high rank of BT3. He circled the world three times. The concept of crossing the International Date Line amazed him. After fulfilling his



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military obligation in 1965 Lou applied for and became a Licensed Inspector of Boiler and Pressure Vessels. At that time he was the youngest person to hold that hard earned certification of competency. For a period of time he worked for an insurance company inspecting boilers. This position (which often required him to act against his sense of honesty and fairness) did not suit him. He then became employed as a power plant operator at the Detroit Edison plant in St. Clair, Michigan. At that facility he again became a proud member of a union: the United Utilities Works of America. There he was able to begin his service to his fellow workers as a union steward. In 1985 he moved to Montague, Michigan to work at S. D Warren in Muskegon. He immediately fell in love with the beautiful area and the cordial, easygoing people. Teaching his guys and helping make their lives as pleasant as possible, Lou felt rewarded in his position as a shift supervisor. But what was Louis John the person outside of the work environment? His was a life of volunteering and giving to others. Lou volunteered with the Marysville Fire Department, coached Boy and Girls Little League, built handicap ramps, was a member of the Edison's Community Service Committee and maintained a backyard ice skating rink. He was a competitive runner and biker. In later years badminton, croquette, and golfing became the sports of choice (some suggested that he made up rules). Lou's artistic side manifested through refinishing antique furniture and artistic painting. He loved traveling and adapted to whatever the new circumstances required (pronouns in Key West caused some humorous situations). This guy was an avid Red Wing fan with a memory for statistics that amazed others. And last, but not least, his grandchildren were the joy of his life. He worked diligently to teach each to tie their own shoes, swim, and ride a bicycle. His patience was endless. In the last days of his life, they displayed unbelievable courage and love. Survivors: wife of twenty-five years, Susan Tabor Stephenson; Siblings, Betty (Bob) Younkens, Judy (Tom) Heyser, David (Margie) Stephenson, Michelle (Gary) Herbst, Jerry Lynn Stephenson; Children: Craig (Megan) Stephenson, Carrie (Randy) Raymo, Amy (Brent) Kearney; Step-children: Elizabeth (Daniel) Casebolt and Dennis (Judith) Mikkelson; Grandchildren, Nicolas, McKenzie, Chase and Madison Casebolt, Joel Mikkelson, Jackie, Garret, and Allison Anguilm, Kyle Raymo, Aislin and James Kearney; Brother and sister-in-law: Ron and Jacque



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Tabor Weesies. Share memories with the family at their on-line guestbook at www.sytsemafh.com. Arrangements by The Sytsema Chapel, Sytsema Funeral Homes, Inc. 737 Apple Ave. 231-726-5210.



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Anonymous posted:

We are so sorry for your loss. He will be missed by many. Are thoughts and prayers are with you.Be strong. Lorna and Bob Cavanaugh###imported-begin###lorna and bob cavanaugh###imported-end##

March 15 at 4:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Susie and family,I am so sorry about Lou. This must be a very hard time in your life. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Your friend,Jane Solem###imported-begin###Jane Solem###imported-end##

March 14 at 5:28 AM



Anonymous posted:

Susan, We were deeply saddened to hear of Lou's passing away so suddenly. Im sorry we didn't get there to see you both sooner. He was greatly loved and will be missed by all who new him. He was a good friend to everyone. Call us so we can get together soon Susan. Love, Roger and Kathy###imported-begin###Roger and Kathy Sheehy###imported-end##

March 12 at 3:51 PM



Anonymous posted:

Lou was the best, we had great fun together and he will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers goes out to Susan and the Family.Ron & Carolyn###imported-begin###Ron Rollins###imported-end##

March 12 at 9:09 AM



Anonymous posted:

I am saddened by your loss and recall many memories of Lou,I worked with him at Scott/Sappi, I learned alot from Lou ,and he helped me in the practice of boiler operations,I will miss him.I met both of you last year at the Feast of Strawberry Moon festival.###imported-begin###Rick Asselmeier###imported-end##

March 12 at 6:40 AM



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Anonymous posted:

Susan I only met you once at the store when you were with Lou I worked as a maint supv. with Lou he was truly great to work with I learned alot from him mostly in the middle of the night on the telephone His first words always were I hate to wake you up but-- An awesome friend and co-worker my prayers are with you and your family we all know where LOU IS NOW34HR##imported-begin##Ed Jones##imported-end##

March 11 at 8:21 PM



Anonymous posted:

I worked with Lou as my supervisor at Sappi paper, out in causticizing. He was a really good man and he will be greatly missed.##imported-begin##Michelle Carey##imported-end##

March 11 at 7:25 PM



Anonymous posted:

I met Lou while working at the Mill. He was a good man and will be missed by all who had the opportunity to work with him.##imported-begin##Frances Harrington##imported-end##

March 11 at 5:20 PM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Susan, I just read about your Lou and am so sorry for your loss. The times we'd run into the two of us in the stores we'd enjoy standing and visiting. We will be remembering you in prayer. Bill and Vicki Goss##imported-begin##Vicki Haney Goss##imported-end##

March 11 at 2:38 PM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Susan , My heart goes out to you , I feel your pain. I lost Rex on Feb. 28 and it's just so hard..I know your just around the corner and you've told me your address befor but I can't remember what you told me. I still remember when you and Lou met, you were a perfect couple..my prayers go out to you and your family##imported-begin##Sharon De Can Swaninger##imported-end##

March 11 at 5:23 AM



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Anonymous posted:

Susan Thinking of you. you & your loved ones are in our prayers,we will all miss Louie, love,
Laura###imported-begin###Laura Mischler###imported-end###

March 10 at 5:13 PM



Anonymous posted:

Susan:I was saddened to learn of Lou's passing.He was my supervisor in the power house at S.D.
Warren (sappi).Lou was instrumental in my returning back to work after a bad car accident without
Lou's help that probably would not have happened.But as everyone who knew Lou knows that just
how great a person he was.He was not just my boss but a very good friend and someone I will
miss.My sympathy to you and your family###imported-begin###Roger Vannett###imported-end###

March 10 at 2:30 PM



Anonymous posted:

Lou was the 1st Supervisor I had when started at the Paper Mill.He was excellent at his job.He always
treated everyone with respect.He never really acted like a boss.He was one of the best people I have
ever worked for. Sad to hear of him passing away.###imported-begin###Brent Hotz###imported-end###

March 10 at 9:43 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Louis J. by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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