



## Michael Henry Haenke

June 2, 1920 - September 20, 2016

### Obituary of Michael Haenke

Michael Henry Haenke died September 20, 2016 in Oxford, Florida. He was born on June 2, 1920, to William H. and Mae (Johnson) Haenke. He lived his first five years with his mother and grandfather, John A. Johnson, in Leonidas, MN. In 1926 he moved with his mother, Mrs. Clarence Alguire, to Flint, Mich., where he was raised. He spent many of his summers at the Lake Vermilion cabin of his aunt and uncle, Jennie and Sham Maki. Those summer years formed the special bond between him and his Minnesota cousins. He graduated from Flint Central High School, worked for a time, then joined the Army on Nov. 19, 1941, just days before Pearl Harbor was attacked. In 1944 he disembarked out of Fort Ord, CA to become part of an amphibious tractor unit of the 194th Field Army Regiment. Unknown to him at the time, this training was preparing for his ultimate mission, the invasion of Japan. He was in Company B of the 43rd Infantry, which was an augmentation force after the battle of Lignin Bay, 80 miles north of Manila. After the war he met his future wife, Irene McDonald, at an Legion military ball. They married in 1946. Soon afterward they moved to Minnesota, where he worked on the railroad and later at Erie Mine, raising 8 children. In the 1960s they had bought the Haenke Farm, continuing the family tradition of raising potatoes. In the early 1970s they sold the farm and purchased the Lakeshor Motor Inn in Virginia, MN and then later bought the Bell Motel in Fairmont, MN. In retirement they split time

between their homes in Spring Hill, FL and Lost Lake, rural Gilbert, MN. His last few years were spent in The Villages, FL where he remained active with golf and tennis well into his 90s. He is survived by his wife of almost 70 years, Irene (McDonald); daughters, Barbara (Wes Ulrich), Karen (Gary Guimont), Marilyn (Monty Hayner), Gail (Art Gamboa), Beth (Jerry Just), Joanne (Pat Abruzzese), and son, Rod; 16 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, brother Jim Haenke and sister Barbara Sonnicksen. He was preceded in death by two children, Lawrence and Kathleen; parents, William Haenke and Mae Alguire; and brothers, William, Robert and Richard. Funeral services will be held Monday, September 26, 2016 at 10 AM at St. Mark the Evangelist, Summerfield, FL. Visitation will be held Sunday, September 25, 2016 from 5 - 7 pm at the Beyers Funeral Home. A lunch will be provided at the church after the mass.

# Tribute Wall

DM

“ Hello to Haenke Families. Our deepest sympathy to all of you on the loss of Mike. The Egan's send their prayers and love to all. My Dad had just had a knee replacement at the time of the funeral and I have been taking care of my Mom while he was in the hospital so we weren't able to attend. We would have loved seeing all of you. I have many fond memories of hanging out at the Haenke Farm and having a great time with the Haenke girls! I know my sister Diane would like to contact Marilyn since she lives in the Metro area. We hope you are all well. Many blessings to you! Deb Egan Maki

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**Deb Egan Maki** - October 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ Sorry I wasn't able to attend Mike's funeral in Gilbert. I misread the date and went to the church on Tuesday instead of Monday. I remember all the good times we had playing tennis eating corn at your cabin and enjoying the Golf with him also. I hope you are in good health and stay busy. The loneliness without a spouse can be devastating. I still go to Florida in the winter time and have found a companion who was up here all summer. Again I'm sorry I wasn't there for Mike's funeral and reminisce about all the good times we had together. My best to you Ron

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**Ron bonkosky** - October 04, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ To the Mike Haenke Family: I along with my brothers, Jeff and Jan Johnson, send our regards to the family members of Mike Haenke. Mike and Irene have a special place in my heart. My deceased dad, Abie Johnson, met Mike when both worked on the DM&IR railroad in the 1950's. Mike talked Abie into helping harvest potatoes on fall evenings and weekends in exchange for some bushels of potatoes. Dad took me along and, after a few trips, I was asked to drive the truck through the fields as the men threw up the sacks of potatoes on the back deck. Once loaded the truck went to a Quonset like barn near the Lakeland Store on hiway #4. There in the cool, damp evenings --surrounded by the odor of dirt and potatoes and lit up by jury rigged lamps-- the spuds would be sorted on a machine with a moving chain linked belt. Rotten ones thrown aside. Other than household chores this was my first work experience out in the "real world" We also helped Mike collect and store hay bales for his dairy cows for which we were paid a half a pig or a side of beef. All the older guys, friends and neighbors helping Mike, would tease me as I struggled to throw hay bales around. "You will be a man before your mother ", they said. Eventually, Mike hired me as a ""farm hand" for several summers, when I was a teenager, for 35 cents an hour. I plowed and disked fields and raked hay so it could be baled. One summer I collected the bales and put them into the barn all by myself. I gained a lot of self-confidence and learned to like hard physical work. I still have fond memories of being fed noon meals with all the kids around the table. I was practically a family member there for awhile. If not for several people who have helped me throughout my life, I would not have as satisfying life that I have. Mike and Irene helped me early and I will forever be grateful to them. Mike's kindness and sense of humor are memories that I cherish. Jay A Johnson, professor emeritus, University of Washington

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**Jay A Johnson** - October 02, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *Missing you Dad. I am so thankful to have had you in my life. This past year your concern for me as I went through my cancer treatment, meant so much. Love you.*

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**Joanne Abruzzese** - September 30, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *###GESTURE###*

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**Julie McDonald-Moore** - September 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Aunt Irene, our heartfelt sympathies go out to you. What an amazing life you two have had! An inspiration to us all to live each day to its fullest of potential. While his body has left this life, Uncle Mike's presence will live on forever in all who knew him. Love and prayers to you all! XXO*

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**Julie McDonald-Moore** - September 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Michael Henry Haenke*

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**Julie McDonald-Moore** - September 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ *Michael Henry Haenke*

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**Karen Guimont** - September 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *How I loved Mike's smile! What a wonderful man! I will never tire of the story of Mike and Irene dancing to the music piped in their complex in the privacy of their patio! What a special marriage. Love to all of you and a special hug to Irene! Xxoo*

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**Marcia Pedrick** - September 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Michael Henry Haenke*

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**barbara Haenke Ulrich** - September 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Michael Henry Haenke*

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**Barbara Haenke Ulrich** - September 24, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Michael Henry Haenke*

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September 24, 2016 at 12:00 AM