



Fritz Theodore Spitzbarth

April 15, 1928 - January 25, 2017

FRITZ THEODORE died peacefully on January 25, 2017 whilst being cared for at the Blue Water Hospice in Marysville. Beloved husband to Lois Ruth (Davis) for 65 years; dearest father to sons Robert J. and John A. Also survived by brother Arthur (Juanita) and sisters Margaret and Gertrude (Lawrence). Mr. Spitzbarth was preceded in death by his parents Hans and Else (Mahr) Spitzbarth.

Fritz was the son of German immigrant parents who came to the US, along with Fritz's older brother and sister, in the mid-1920s. Fritz was very proud of his German heritage. His mother was an intellectually curious woman, who provided a traditional and comforting home life during the depths of the Depression. His father was a demanding man whose die making expertise allowed him to work throughout the 1930s to support his family. Fritz greatly admired and respected his father's tenacity, toughness, work ethic and craftsmanship.

In the late 1920s, the family built a home on Detroit's Northeast side. Fritz embraced his east side roots and often jested that he was just a poor kid from the east side struggling to get by. He attended Denby High, and it was at Denby in the mid-40s that he met the love of his life, Lois, whom he described as "vom Himmel Geschickt", or sent from heaven. They were married on 15 Sep 51.

At 17, Fritz joined the Marine Corps. He served in 1946-47 and always considered himself a Marine. From 1946 on, he spoke often with Tom, his Marine Corps friend from Parris Island.

In late 1947, shortly after his honorable discharge from the Corps, Fritz went deer hunting in the Upper Peninsula for the first time. This began a love affair with the UP that lasted until he died, and he referred to the UP as the "Promised Land". In 1970, he bought a Finnish sportsman's club called the "Suomi Hunting Club". Many of his most joyful times were spent at the Suomi. For the past 25 years, he spoke frequently to his good UP friend Dale who kept him apprised of all the UP news when Fritz was away.

Nothing was more important to Fritz than hard work, earning your pay and being the best you could be at your craft. He became a tool and die maker in the late 1940s, working at Modern Die and Tool in Detroit.

After Modern closed in 1970, Fritz found a niche in the used machinery business and formed his own company, Fritz's Industrial Sales. The used machinery business was truly Fritz's calling and he worked in it for the next 40 years, many of them with his good friend Kenny. Fritz enjoyed every day in the Machinery Business and never considered it work. He was proud of the success he achieved in business, as well as the success of his children.

While he loved both working and his trips to the UP, his greatest joy was always returning home to his wife of 65 years, Lois. They built a beautiful life together for themselves and their two sons. Over the years, Fritz and Lois also enjoyed many travels together in the US, Canada, and abroad.

Fritz was a one of a kind man who carved his own path through life. Most importantly, he was a truly good and ethical man, who took great care of his

family and was a trusted friend. He was a man who was self-made, wise, gregarious, adventurous, funny, and hard working, and he lived the American Dream.

Fritz will always be loved by his family and friends. He will never, and could never, be forgotten. We miss him so much.

A small private service will be held. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or the Blue Water Hospice.

Tribute Wall

WC

“ Today is a sad day because we have to say goodbye to a good friend. Lois and Fritz are the two nicest people you would ever want to meet. Lois has lost a loving husband and Robert and John have lost a good Dad. We'll miss his jokes, stories, many hunting camp stories and having a glass of wine from "The Spitzbarth Collection" and the warm welcome you always received when visiting them. My children and my nieces and nephews, all grown now, will miss Hoppe Reiter. He was called so because of the German folk song he sang when they were small. He sang it to my four year old granddaughter last summer, her sitting on his knee. He was always known as Hoppe Reiter.

We'll all miss you. Rest in peace Dear Friend. Walt and Clara

Walt and Clara - February 01, 2017 at 08:49 AM

BG

“ Bill and Carla Gilley purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Fritz Theodore Spitzbarth.



Bill and Carla Gilley - January 31, 2017 at 04:40 PM



“ As a local realtor, It was always fun to take my favorite clients out to look for waterfront homes. I believe we searched for 4 years or so until we found the delightful ranch they have been in for the last couple years. I have never met a man at Fritz's age who was so happy, charming, devilish, and totally in love with his wife. Truly, they were such fun to be around I didn't care if we ever found them a home.

It feels sad to know that you are not together now, Lois, but I do hope all the wonderful memories you share will help ease your loss. Your sons should feel proud to know that Dad made such a great impression on others. I feel certain he never had a bad day. Some may not have been as good as others, but people with Fritz's optimism and joy of life are sorely missed by the rest of us. Heaven needs his great attitude. He will make lots of friends there too, and probably see some cherished buddies, maybe from the UP, "the promised land."

Please accept my condolences on his passing. There will always be a warm spot in my heart for Fritz and Lois.

Linda Bailey

Linda Bailey - January 31, 2017 at 04:12 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Fritz Theodore Spitzbarth.*



January 31, 2017 at 10:57 AM

JV

“ Bob,

I am sorry for your loss.

Jim Victor

Jim Victor - January 29, 2017 at 02:52 PM

AJ

“ *When my daughter was born Fritz handed me some money and said open her savings account and that I did 💕💕 One of my favorite customers Fritz and his wife Lois when he would bring her out to eat at Bushs. lol Always had to tease him about letting Mama out for awhile I will so miss you Fritz*

Anna Jerlecki - January 29, 2017 at 08:35 AM



“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Pomeroy Funeral Home - January 28, 2017 at 09:52 AM