



Carl Walli Saari

May 11, 1935 - January 17, 2016

Age 80.

Beloved husband of Jeannie for 56 years.

Loving father of Lisa (William) Moore, Christina (Joseph) Godell, and Timothy (Christina) Saari.

Dear grandfather of Bradley, Jeremy, Cameron, Meghan, Kate, and Paige.

Adoring great grandfather of Carly.

Beloved sister, Irene Rochwarg, son of Carl Ewald Saari and Esther Saari.

Carl was born in Palmer, MI, a small mining town in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He spent his early years surrounded by his parents, Carl and Esther, along with his sister Irene, grandparents and uncles. Carl's family moved to Harper Woods, MI where he went to Beacon School and graduated from Harper Woods High School where he was captain of the football team and was named "best dancer" by his classmates. He was known by the nickname "Cullie" by his friends, which is what they heard when his grandfather would call to him in his Finnish accent. He made friends with an great group of men who liked to call themselves the "BIG 8". After they retired from their

careers they changed their group name to R.O.M.E.O. (Real Old Men Eating Out). He remained close friends with each of them until his dying day.

Carl volunteered for the U.S Army in 1955 with his great friend Charlie Gentile, and they were both assigned a post in Germany and drove trucks for transporting troops. He liked to joke about how surprised he was to be tasked with driving a truck, responsible for the lives of dozens of soldiers since his eyesight was so bad. The only thing he worried about more than crashing the truck himself was that Charlie, who had equally bad eyesight, would crash into the back of him! As he would say, "go figure."

After he returned from the Army, Carl attended Wayne State University, and began a career in the banking and finance. While he was going to school, Carl was introduced on a blind date to his loving wife Jeannie Healy, whom he married in 1960 and had three children with; Lisa, Christina and Timothy. He was a true family man and was always there to help his family in any way he could. He never missed a chance to tell his wife and children, "I love you."

Carl enjoyed the outdoors, and spent many of his retirement summers at his cottage in Gaylord, MI where he enjoyed a quiet evening of fishing and visiting with friends and family. He was also the family photographer and was famous for his slide shows which he would set up on the driveway and project onto the garage door. Even the neighbors who weren't in the pictures enjoyed them! He was also an avid reader, and would often have a news article, or comic strip to share. He was known for his famously dry sense of humor, and he delivered his one liners with a perfectly straight face... every time.

He will forever be missed by his all of his family and friends.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital or the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of

Michigan.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 22. 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Instate

JAN 23. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Funeral Service

JAN 23. 11:30 AM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Tribute Wall



“ *Carl Walli Saari*

October 23, 2023 at 04:00 AM



“ *Carl Walli Saari*

January 06, 2023 at 05:24 AM

“ *In Remembrance of Carl*

On January 17, 2016, my dear friend and Brother-in-law Carl Saari passed away. It has been two and a half months since his death and he is on my mind every day. I know he will always be in my thoughts and memory.

I first met Carl in 1958 when he was dating my sister Jeannie. Jeannie became his wife in 1960 and in that same year I married my wife Felicia and my sister Mary married Joseph Frontera. What a burden we put on our poor parents. That initial meeting was the beginning of a friendship that lasted almost 60 years. We shared so many wonderful times and so many beautiful memories.

I remember fishing trips to the Upper Peninsula and Northern Canada, and a wonderful camping trip to New England when our children were just little ones.

During our visit to New England we took a trip up Mt. Washington. Felicia, Jeannie and our youngest daughter Christine bailed out after only about a mile into the climb. As we approached the summit, Carl had to walk in front of the car to guide me along, because the climb was so steep and foggy, and I could not see over the hood (this memory still stands out in my mind). After Carl directed us to a turnaround area, we picked up Jeannie, Felicia and Christine on the way back down. We found out later we had been within about 100 feet of the summit.

One day Carl and I went trout fishing in a small back woods stream near the campground and caught several trout, we had them for breakfast. We found out later the stream was a fly's only stream and we were using worms for bait on our fly rods.

We also took the children to a beautiful state park in New Hampshire; it had a nice area for swimming so we decided it would be a good place to give them a bath. I remember watching all the

soap bubbles floating down the stream. I am sure the state of New Hampshire held a celebration when we crossed the state line into Massachusetts.

We drove to the Boston area and met Carl's sister Irene, her husband Rocky and their children and had a great time visiting with them.

Carl and Jeannie bought a beautiful summer home on Ranger Lake near Gaylord where we spent so many wonderful times with them. I have so many great memories of fishing, hiking and dining out in Gaylord or Joeburg. Day trips to Mackinac Island, Saint Ignace, Tahquamenon Falls and so many other lovely places in northern Michigan are strong in my mind, and through it all the blessing of this wonderful friendship. I will miss his wry sense of humor. He was a dear friend and more, he was my brother.

He was not perfect but he was an honest and decent man. Rest in peace Carl, you have run the good race.

*With love,
Jim and Felicia Healy*

Jim-Felicia Healy - April 04, 2016 at 02:42 PM

KT

“ To the Saari family,

My deepest sympathies for the loss of Mr. Saari. My family (Teshich) was fortunate to have had the Saari family as next door neighbors for over 25 years. Reading the beautiful obituary and the loving memories shared by his grandchildren brought me to tears. He sounded like he was a great husband, father, and grandfather.

I remember him as kind and laid back, and always there when you needed him. One example is when I locked my keys in my running car in the winter and my parents had already left for work. This was before cell phones, so I had to walk next door to ask to borrow the phone to call my mom. Mr. Saari answered the door with a smile (as usual), and said of course I could come in to use the phone and wait for my mom. He also offered me breakfast while I was waiting :).

It was so nice to see Mr. and Mrs. Saari at my dad's funeral home visitation four years ago; thank you again, it meant a lot to me. My husband and I are flying home today from a business trip, thus we are unable to make it to the funeral home. Please know all of you are in my thoughts during this sad time, and I also think of you often.

*Love,
Karen*

Karen Taylor - January 22, 2016 at 12:34 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Carl Walli Saari.



January 22, 2016 at 09:27 AM

KS

“ *This is a song that i wrote is for Papa,
My head is spinning, my heart is beating, i'm alive oh oh oh oh oh
you fight for me. I'll fight for you. You are gone we're gonna miss
you. You always know what to say you are here to save the day.
You stop the storm and it goes away. And I am sorry to say, it is
time for me to go away.*

Love, Kate Saari

Kate Saari - January 22, 2016 at 06:23 AM

PS

“ *We love you so much an all of us miss you and we are very sad.
You were a good PaPa. Love Paige*

Paige Saari - January 22, 2016 at 06:05 AM

BS

“ *What can you write when a valued long time friend succumbs to the
inevitable? I will miss his inscrutably knowing smile, his warm
friendliness, his kind words and his clever and wry sense of humor.
Many times he didn't say much, but when he did it was to the point
and had a strong depth of meaning. He was mentor and role model
for me during grade school lasting until after high school. His
kindness, consideration and consistency of purpose were strong
traits which I sought to embrace. I know that he loved his dear wife
Jeannie, his children and grandchildren. They were the jewels of his
life. He was proud of his Finnish heritage. As I reflect on my life
knowing Carl, I am a much better person for his gracious friendship.
May his memory be eternal to his family and friends as it will be to
me.*

Bill Stidham

Bill Stidham - January 21, 2016 at 12:52 PM

CT

“ Lisa and the rest of the Saari family I am so sorry for the lost of your loved one

Colleen Teahan - January 20, 2016 at 06:43 PM

JE

“ A favorite memory with my Grandpa:

Looking over at the sidelines during my soccer, baseball, and football games throughout my life and seeing my grandpa and grandma support and cheer me on is something that I probably took for granted back then but I feel utterly blessed and fortunate for now. Besides material things, my grandpa spoiled me with life lessons, his big heart, and just his presence... which can't be purchased.

- Jeremy

Jeremy - January 20, 2016 at 05:15 PM