



Avery M. Cross

April 14, 1927 - January 8, 2021

Avery Marshall Cross “Bill”, age 93 of Kalkaska, died Friday 8 January 2021 at the Kalkaska Assisted Living facility. Avery was the son of Benjamin F. Cross and Lila Crow Cross Drake. When the Kalkaska high school burnt, most of the men were away at war, he and a group of boys laid the hoses to try to save it, but it was so cold the water froze in the hoses. He helped lay the foundation for the new school. He was drafted into the U.S. Army June 1945 assigned to the 41st Ordnance Detachment as a heavy truck driver, he got his driver’s license age 10. In Nov 1945 he married Alice Stacy. They had a daughter, Betty Jane Cross. 23 Aug 1947, Avery Cross married Ruth Mary Hoag. Shortly after they were married, he enlisted for two years in the Coast Guard assigned to the Coast Guard Cutter Campbell. 1957 he went to work at General Motors Tank Plant in Grand Blanc in the welding department. Avery enjoyed gardening and wood crafts. He was a highly active Boy Scout leader. Ruth and Avery spent many hours watching birds out the window and going across the state snowmobiling. After retirement in 1991 they spent most winters in Congress, AZ at the North Ranch Escapee RV park. As a “Rainbow Builder”, he was very instrumental in developing the newly formed park. If he could see something in his mind, he could build it. Avery had an engineer’s imagination when it came to figuring out how to make something from nothing. He leaves behind two sons in Grand Blanc, William (Barb) Cross and Dennis Cross, a daughter Gladys (Leslie) Ballard of Kalkaska and a son Larry (Carol) Cross of Mancelona. He had 17 grandchildren, 31 great grandchildren and 9

great-great- grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of 70 years, Ruth; son Robert; daughter-in-law Susan (Shaw) Cross, daughter Betty (John) Drabik; three sisters and three brothers. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Tribute Wall

GB

“ *From the card sent by Sharon and Vern Harvery - we thought the world of both of them and have missed them very much. He was a great man and a wonderful friend.*

Gladys Ballard - January 16, 2021 at 01:35 PM

JF

“ *Good Old Kalkaska for you and me....Avery signed in my autograph book many years ago...miss you and love you...Joann or Joannie as he called me....*

JoAnn Fair - January 09, 2021 at 01:35 PM