



## Harold "Hal" M. Dufford

September 11, 2011

Harold "Hal" Mapes Dufford, 86, of Kalkaska, passed away Sunday, September 11, 2011 at Kalkaska Memorial Health Center.

The harnesses are hung, the sleds put away; Michigan's oldest dog musher has gone to heaven with his dogs. Dog sledding was Hal's passion and he loved his Siberian Huskies. He started Cherski Kennels in 1967 and was very well known for breeding champions in the sport. Hal was born on February 4, 1925, in Glastonbury, CT to the late J. Clair and Ruth (Mapes) Dufford. He served his country in WWII as a Marine pilot, flying Corsairs, attaining the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. Hal worked in Tehran for two years as a Director of Iran Aircraft Industries, where he worked to train the Iranians to operate this company, and was very successful. He attended Yale and Iowa State, earning a B.S. in Agriculture. Hal was a founding member of the Kalkaska Kiwanis Club, serving as President and Lt. Governor. He was very active as the district leader of Key Club and he loved the many years he spent with the Kiwanis kids. In 2007, Hal won the Citizen of the Year by the Kalkaska Chamber of Commerce.

He is survived by his loving wife of 45 years Mary Clare, six children: Greg (Julie) of Broomfield, CO, Jim (Dee) Dufford of Grand Haven, Catherine (Bob) Scarbrough of Cadillac, Susan (Chip) Adams of Hobe Sound, FL, Rebecca (Rick) Marcinkus of Conklin, and Todd (Stephanie) Dufford of Wyoming, MI; his two brothers John (Joan) and William (Susan) Dufford both of Glastonbury, CT; two brothers in-law Kim Weeks of Kalkaska and Doug Weeks of

Oklahoma; 14 grandchildren; 4 great grandchildren; and will be dearly missed by his favorite lead dogs Rika and Sealmak. Hal was preceded in death by his parents; brother Richard Dufford; and grandson Jacob Paul Meier.

Per Hal's wishes, cremation has taken place. A memorial service to celebrate Hal's life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at the Kalkaska Senior Center. In lieu of flowers please feel free to donate to your local Kiwanis Club or Animal Rescue. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

# Tribute Wall



“ enjoy the clouds dear dog musher i hear they are as fast as the best trail u ever groomed##imported-begin##annonamus##imported-end##

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September 28, 2011 at 03:43 PM



“ Wow, what a shock. I didn't even know he was sick. Hal was a great employee and friend. We worked together for 20+ years. He was the last of the real magneto repair men. Prayers to you Mary. I know how your feeling. The great thing is that he can mush in heaven all year with no pain or worry!

Love ya,

Dan##imported-begin##Dan Fritzsche##imported-end##

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September 27, 2011 at 08:50 AM



“ Becky, Jim, Cathy, Sue, Todd and Mom.  
I love you all!! You are in my prayers and I know that the memories will make you smile.

Hal was a man who loved you from the moment you walked through the back door. I was fortunate enough to be among this family who welcomed me into there home with open arms. My heart is with each and every one of you.

So sorry for the loss of a wonderful Dad.##imported-begin##Claudia Arkesteyn (Smith)##imported-end##

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September 25, 2011 at 09:19 PM



“ *Mary my condolensec to you on your loss of Hal. I don't know if you remember me, I was a friend of Jim Hartman. I will remember both you in my prayers.*

*Barry Palmer##imported-begin##Barry E Palmer##imported-end##*

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September 24, 2011 at 09:01 AM



“ *John and Bill, I am sorry about your loss. My prayer are with you. Your brother was wonderful man.I am sure he will be missed.##imported-begin##Ron Palmer##imported-end##*

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September 23, 2011 at 11:18 AM



“ *Larger than life...loved us all, family, huggas and friends deeply...laughed often...flirted often too...could do anything he set his mind to...cherished his wife...respected and admired in his community...and so much more. Dad, you set an awesome example and really 'raised the bar' - I hope my life has, does and will reflect all that you gave to me and taught us. And yes, we'll be talking about you alot this Saturday!##imported-begin##Jim Dufford##imported-end##*

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September 22, 2011 at 12:06 PM



“ *Becky and Family:*  
*Life.....so fragile, Loss....so sudden, Heart....so broken,...in the wake of such a loss, we are haunted by things we dont, and may never understand. Yet the solace we seek may not come from answers. So we look for comfort in the belief of love's everlasting connection. May that love lift you and hold you close, and give you peace.##imported-begin##Fawn Smith##imported-end##*

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September 21, 2011 at 09:57 AM



“ *Hal was the best marketeer I've had the pleasure of working with. Intelligent, dedicated and fun. He will be missed.*

*Dick Haan##imported-begin##Richard Haan##imported-end##*

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September 20, 2011 at 08:51 AM



“ *When I was about to run Jr. Iditarod in 2003 hal gave me this hat with huskies on it. I could never wear it for it was WAY to big! But every year I saw him at kalkaska he would give me the biggest hug and ask wears my hat? He will be greatly missed was a wonderful person.##imported-begin##lynzie bacchus##imported-end##*

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September 20, 2011 at 04:40 AM



“ I have been thinking over the last few days of the many memories of not only Mr. Dufford but the whole family. Most of them fond but also remembering cleaning the dog runs on Saturday morning before the fun could begin. I will always remember his great laugh which was as big as he was. I wish you all peace in your memories of many happy family times.##imported-begin##Jimi Lynne Chapman##imported-end##

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September 19, 2011 at 04:48 PM



“ As soon as I saw the name, I knew this was Mary's husband. I worked with Mary for many fine years at Traverse City Osteopathic Hospital. While I didn't know Hal personally, I heard lots of stories of his dogs from Mary. I know his family cherished him and I am sorry for their loss. Mary, my thoughts are with you and I hope that those years of happy times with Hall will give you comfort.##imported-begin##Sherry McNamara##imported-end##

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September 19, 2011 at 10:07 AM



“ I want to start by saying a huge thank you to Mary and Hal. I enjoyed sled dog racing with them and enjoyed time well spent taking care of the animals and finding a place where you can find kind hearted people. He was a very good person and influence on me. Taught me a lot as well. Hal I know your in a better place and watching down on everyone you have met and know. Again thank you to you.##imported-begin##Amber Huddleston##imported-end##

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September 18, 2011 at 11:49 PM



“ Hal was a wonderful father-in-law to me and equally wonderful grandpa to our three children and their children. I'll miss his wise advice, big hugs and hearty presence. May he rest in peace knowing he left behind a strong legacy to so many.###imported-begin##Stephanie Dufford###imported-end##

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September 18, 2011 at 12:46 PM



“ My Dad was a great man! He was such a "teacher" to all who knew him. He was the kind of guy that could fix or build anything. He only wanted you to be the best you could possibly be. He taught me so much about how to succeed in life and I am forever grateful to have had him as my father. I love you Dad.###imported-begin##Todd Dufford###imported-end##

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September 18, 2011 at 12:35 PM



“ My condolences to the family . Hal was a wonderful person and I was glad to be able to call him a friend .###imported-begin##Brian Hodge###imported-end##

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September 18, 2011 at 11:52 AM



“ I don't know who will miss Dad more, all his family or his "huggas". We grew up loving all creatures great and small and Dad always supported us in our endeavors whether it be with the dogs or horses (my passion.)He loved fixing things (which wasn't always the best thing!)but he installed a work ethic in all us kids which I'll always be grateful for. I could go on and on, but the good memories far out number any bad. Rest in Peace Dad.###imported-begin##Cathy Scarbrough###imported-end##

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September 18, 2011 at 11:27 AM



“ Good bye Big Hal a man who mushed through life is now at ease. My deepest sympathies to his wonderful wife Mary Clare and exceptional offspring Greg,Jim,Cathy,Sue,Todd and my very favorite Miss Becky and their families. We all have fond memories of Hal, and in that, he will live on.###imported-begin##Dawn M. Russo-Tibbe###imported-end##

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September 17, 2011 at 09:39 PM



“ May God Bless the Family at this most Difficult time ~ he will be Greatly missed ~ R.I.P." Hal Baby "###imported-begin##Lisa Nassif###imported-end##

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September 17, 2011 at 02:40 AM



“ There is so much more to my Dad than could ever be listed in obituary,I think you could fill a whole book of interesting things this man did in his lifetime,he was an "expert" in many things as many of you have found out over the years.He was always there for us and it's because of him we are who we are.I have had the pleasure of talking to some of his "up north" friends and have gotten to know many other wonderful things Dad did to touch peoples lives,one talked to me about how he taught them the best way to plant and work their garden,he loved gardening.Well I could go on and on but Dad wouldn't want that,so I will finish by saying Thank you Dad,you will be missed,love you!###imported-begin##Becky Marcinkus###imported-end##

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September 16, 2011 at 04:18 PM



“ His son, Greg, wife Julie, and family (William/Lauraina, Jenn, Laura/Greg and daughters, Jackie and Olivia) send our loving thoughts about father, grandfather, and great grandfather Hal Dufford. The example of warmth, strength, and fortitude will live on in his heirs. Memories of strong hugs, warm smiles and laughter, turkeys grilled outdoors, sled rides, and trips to the dairy where animals were free range, natural, and provided warm milk that Hal drank daily and claimed could not be equaled by any homogenized product. The love of his dogs was shared by all of us. Our thoughts and prayers are sent to his wife Mary, and all of his family in Michigan and Florida.##imported-begin##Greg and Julie Dufford##imported-end##

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September 15, 2011 at 10:28 PM