

**John Edward Willett** peacefully passed away Monday afternoon August 20, 2012 with his family at his bedside at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Michigan

He was born on February 20, 1928 in Saginaw, Michigan son of the late Edward John Willett and Nellie (Rogers) Baker. John lived in Saginaw until 1936 then moved to Manistee with his family after the death of his father. John attended Guardian Angels School as well as Manistee High School. To help his family John dropped out of school at the age of 15 to work on the Lower Lakers as a coal passer. John served our country by joining the U.S. Army in 1946 and served for two years. After he returned to Manistee he worked various jobs until he started his career in law enforcement. He started as a patrolman and quickly moved through the ranks of Sgt., Lt., Capt., Assistant Chief and finally achieving the rank of Chief of Police. John was the youngest appointed Chief of Police in the State of Michigan at age 35.

During that time, he married Sylvia Ann Linke of Filer City, Michigan in 1955. John & Sylvia had three children Renee, Rhonda & Michael. John had various hobbies in his life, including bowling, hunting and fishing. John was also a lifetime member of the Michigan Police Chiefs Association. He had a great sense of humor and loved to laugh. He loved the outdoors, but most of all loved spending time with his grandchildren, Holly Tabaczka of Anchorage, Alaska, Linda Kott, Christopher and Jared Willett all of Manistee.

John is survived by his wife Sylvia, his daughters, Renee & Rhonda and his son and daughter-in-law Michael & Kimberly (Patulski) Willett and his grandchildren, Also a sister Joan Davis of Williamston, MI, brothers-in-law Wayne (Helen) Linke, Arvid (Laurie) Linke and Arnold (Linda) Linke and a sister-in-law Myrna Schuelke and their families.

In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death by 2 sisters Margaret Stypa and Leah Wroblewski.

Mass from The Order of Christian Funerals will be celebrated Saturday, August 25, 2012 at 11:00 AM at Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Manistee with Reverend John McCracken celebrant.

The family will receive friends at the Herbert Funeral Home Friday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 PM and on Saturday morning, at Guardian Angels Catholic Church one hour prior to the funeral Mass.

**The Herbert Funeral Home of Manistee is in charge of funeral arrangements.**

