



Joseph L. Huffmaster, Jr., age 88 of Marquette, entered eternal life Tuesday, December 31, 2019, at the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans, peacefully surrounded by his family.

Born in 1931 in Dearborn, Michigan, the son of Joseph and Mabel (Sarnoski) Huffmaster, Joe was raised in Dearborn and graduated from Detroit's McKenzie High School. While in high school, Joe was very active in athletics, participating in the sports of football, hockey, and baseball. Following graduation, Joe was drafted into the US Army, serving during the Korean Conflict. On September 10, 1950 he married the love of his life Jean H. Shuell, they were married for 69 years. Following his honorable discharge from the Army, the couple made their home in Detroit where Joe was employed as a carpenter with his father in the

operation of Huffmaster and Sons Construction. While Joe and Jean were raising their family, they were also actively involved in their community. For several years, Joe served as the president of the Redford Township Junior Athletic Association, coaching football, baseball, and hockey. After visiting several times, Joe and Jean fell in love with the Marquette area and made the decision to relocate their family here in 1978. Locally, Joe was employed as the Building Superintendent with Pathways from 1980 until 2000 when he retired. During his retirement Joe especially enjoyed time spent with his grandchildren and attending their various events. He had an especially close bond with his grandchildren: Charles, Josef, Grace, Sara and Josh. His other hobbies and interests centered around collecting model cars, old military memorabilia, and travelling throughout the state to visit family. Joe also had quite a collection of music that he loved to listen to.

He was honored in 2016 to be a participant, along with fellow veterans, in the Honor Flight. He was also a member of the local VFW and the American Legion.

Joe is survived by his wife of 69 years, Jean; his children: Katherine Varga of Zephyrhills, FL, Kurt Huffmaster of Chassell, Chris (Claudia) Huffmaster of Royal Oak, Jan (Joseph) Bigalke of Manistee, Kim (James) Iwanicki of Marquette, and Lori (Darren) Dusenbery of Flushing; 21 grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; a sister-in-law Neala Huffmaster of Las Vegas, NV; numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Joe was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Karen Huffmaster; a daughter-in-law, Catherine Huffmaster; sisters and brothers-in-law, Marion (Robert) Collen and Madeline (Paul) Sorensen; and his brother, Richard Huffmaster.

The family would like to express its sincere gratitude to the staff at D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans for taking such wonderful care of their *"husband, father and Papa."*

Joe will always be remembered for being a dedicated family man who always put others needs above his own and will be missed terribly by his family.

Memorial donations in memory of Joe can be directed to the family.

Friends may call at St. Michael Catholic Church on Monday, January 6, beginning at 11:30 am. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:00 pm with Rev. Greg Heikkala, pastor, as celebrant. Spring interment will be made in the Holy Cross Cemetery.

Fassbender Swanson Hansen Funeral and Cremation Services is serving the family, where condolences may be expressed online at fassbenderswansonhansen.com