



Irene J. Josephson

IRONWOOD, Mich - Irene Jeanette Josephson, 91, passed away peacefully on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at her beloved Josephson Nursing Home. She had been in good health until very recently having enjoyed a visit with family.

The 91 year old native of Gladstone, Michigan was the eldest of 3 children born on December 26, 1919 to Edwin, an immigrant from Sweden, and Jennie (Lamberg) Larson of Days River, Michigan. Irene graduated from Gladstone High School in Gladstone, Michigan. She completed her Bachelors of Science in Nursing, being a Registered Nurse, was a requirement to be commissioned into the 804th Medical Air Evacuation Squadron of the United States Army Nurse Corps.

As Irene Larson, Second Lieutenant, she would serve in the combat theater of the South Pacific in the Flight Nursing Core, flying to the front lines picking up the wounded, and departing in heavy planes with short island runways. By the war's end Irene had been awarded 2 Silver Stars and 1 Bronze Star.

The strength of her character came through as it had during the war years, this time equipping her as an independent, opinionated, feisty, sharp dressing professional with a keen love of the UP. Upon her return from service she completed her Masters Degree in Public Health.

While employed by the State of Michigan as a Public Health Nurse, she arrived in Ironwood to inspect Josephson Nursing Home. It was here that she met the love of her life, Ragnar Josephson. They married on December 26, 1964 in Gladstone, Michigan at the First Lutheran Church. Irene enjoyed a friendship with Ragnar's two adult children, Janice Maki and Jeffery Josephson. Making their home directly behind the nursing home, their partnership and proximity gave heart to the care of the oldsters every day and night. They purchased the Gowdy sisters' home, adjacent to the nursing home, an expansion that provided for their increasing number of residents. This foundation built a corner stone business in Ironwood, furthered by their niece Jo Jo Buckovetz and her husband Bruce. Our family is proud of the legacy of quality care that continues to be given at 'the home with a heart' by Priscilla and Jim Cross. Ragnar and Irene enjoyed 32 years of marriage before Ragnar's death on May 30th, 1997.

Irene was determined to make a lasting contribution to the community and established the 'Ragnar and Irene Josephson Endowed Scholarship' in 1999 at Gogebic Community College. This endowed gift currently provides three scholarships each year to full-time students who have graduated from a high school in Gogebic County, MI or Iron County, WI. One is awarded to each of a nursing student, a business student, and the third is not limited to any specific academic program.

Irene had a bright, engaging intellect and enjoyed talking to everyone. Early in her life she was an avid outdoors woman immensely enjoying her time in nature, fishing and hunting. She especially enjoyed spending quality time with family at the Lamberg farm in Days River, and several family owned camps in the UP. She also loved her visits and vacations with her brother Lee Larson's family in California. Later in life she enjoyed trips to the Casino, the hairdresser and K-mart for shopping and french fries.

Besides her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her brother and sister-in-law, Clifford and Shirley Larson.

Irene's surviving next of kin are her loving brother Lee William (Helga) Larson of Valley Springs, California; her many nieces and nephews including: Bonnie (Oliver) La Palm of Appleton, Wisconsin, Chris (Jim) Anderson of Appleton, Wisconsin, Carole (Jeff) Hiney of De Tour Village, Michigan; Cindy (Lynn) Jansen of Diablo, California; Terry (Patti) Larson of Roseville, California; Paul Larson of Escanaba, Michigan; and their families including 11 grand and 4 great-grand nieces and nephews; cousins Marian (Richard) Feehan of Gladstone, Michigan; Norman Lamberg of Arlington, Virginia; Roger (Donna) Lamberg of Jackson, Wisconsin; and Jeff Lamberg of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and numerous other relatives and many friends.

Out of respect for Irene's wishes, arrangements for cremation are entrusted to Range Funeral Services Inc. and a private family service with inurnment of Irene and Ragnar together, as they wished.

The family would like to send a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Pogliano, the nurses and staff at Grand View Hospital and Josephson Nursing Home who consistently provided compassionate care, as well as being professional colleagues throughout Irene's life. Her family is deeply grateful for every act of kindness extended to her.



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# Irene Josephson

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October 26, 2011

Dear Family and Friends of Irene Josephson,

Irene (Larson) Josephson was my father's sister, with full heart I am writing to provide you with her obituary. As family or a friend, I have come across a Christmas or Birthday card you sent, maybe we have visited while I was in Ironwood or I've heard of you from Irene - so I write you with many thanks for the love and friendship you shared.

Sincerely yours,

Cindy Larson - Jansen