



Eugene "Curly" Bernard Karels

February 15, 1915 - March 28, 2015

100 Years Young! Proud WW II Veteran Curly, a longtime resident of Shoreview, died March 28, 2015. Preceded in death by his first wife, Margaret; and son-in-law, George Rettner. Survived by wife, Lois; children, Margie Rettner, Gene (Pat), Trish (Dick) Krinke, Bill (Jeanne Smith), Kate (Bridget Serig) and Tom; 19 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren. Curly was an accomplished musician, a member of the Musician Union, played with numerous bands including Whoopee John, Jules Herman and the Wally Olson Band and appeared in the movie, Grumpier Old Men. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus. Mass of Christian Burial 11AM Tuesday, April 7 (visitation begins at 10AM) at ST ODILIA CATHOLIC CHURCH, 3495 N. Victoria, Shoreview. Interment Holy Trinity Cemetery, Winsted.

Tribute Wall

GK

“ *Fond memories of Curly. His mother and my grandmother, Rosina Heigl Thiemann, were sisters.*

At internment my cousin, Jerome Thiemann, recalled that another nickname for Curly was "Dempsey".

I also remember my father referring to him as Dempsey. Jerome remembered that Curly boxed around Winsted as a young man and apparently acquired the nickname because of famous boxer, Jack Dempsey.

I visited Curley and Lois at their apartment last Summer and reviewed with them a packet of photos from the time of his Navy service. Unfortunately his macular degeneration limited his sight but he told stories as Lois and I described the scene. One story was particularly funny. I asked if he had to go through the Navy ritual hazing as he crossed the equator for the first time. He grinned his famous grin and said, "No, I was in the band"!! (i.e. during the ceremony)

I enjoyed "Lord of the Dance" at the funeral service - had not heard it for maybe 40 years. I congratulated the musicians and they said it was Trish's idea.

In celebration of his life well lived

Jerry Kegler and Anne Pierce

Gerald Kegler - April 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *Grandpa, I have missed soo many years and I wish we had spent more time together. I wish we could have known each other better..I am glad you are at peace and are with grandma up in heaven..I love you so much and we will see each other soon enough. Until then I will miss you till then.*

Jessica Thomas - March 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM