



Raymond Ostrom

June 20, 2012

Ostrom, Raymond Gustav age 85 of Bloomington has joined his beloved wife Norma (d. 5-23-12) to carry on the partnership they enjoyed for 65 years. Ray had three loves in his life: his family, fishing and hunting. After proudly serving in the United States Coast Guard aboard the USS Sheliak during WWII, he followed his passions for fishing and hunting, and along with his wife Norma, they opened Ostrom's Marine and Sporting Goods in 1948. Always looking for ways to encourage his business, he started hosting Muskie Tournaments on Lake of the Woods. He introduced snowmobiles to the midwest. But it was his passion for fishing that led him to co-found The Rapala Company which evolved to become Normark Corporation. Through his contributions to the economy and culture of Finland, the Finnish Government awarded him Knight First Class of the Order of the Lion of Finland. Other recognitions and honors include induction into the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame, the Minnesota Fishing Hall of Fame and the Normark Corporation Hall of Fame. While Ray was never a retiring type of guy, he left Normark Corporation to pursue his passions for fishing and hunting. He purchased the Lord Rapala, a houseboat on Lake of the Woods, intending to restore it. When it became evident that this was not possible, he had it dismantled and designed a new boat incorporating bits of the Lord Rapala into the hull. He named his new boat the NormaRay. The NormaRay was launched from the Port of Kenora in August, 1987 and docked on Cyclone Island in Lake of the Woods. He and Norma entertained family and friends there for 20 glorious years. Ray is

preceded in death by his wife, Norma, parents, Esther and Gustav Ostrom, his brother, Reuben and his grandson, Joseph Craig Bundy. He is survived by his children, Cathy Ostrom Peters (Joe) and Kirk Ostrom; his grandchildren, Matthew (Angela), Katherine, Elizabeth, Rikki and Karlene as well as his 8 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Special love and thanks to Diane Croteau and Marlee Torrence of Encore Senior Home Care for their kindness, compassion and excellent care. Visitation from 5-7 PM, Fri., June 22nd at Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel, 5000 W. 50th and Hwy 100, and also one hour prior to the service 10 AM Sat., June 23rd at Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel. A memorial luncheon and celebration of Ray's life will follow at Bayview Events Center, 687 Excelsior Boulevard, Excelsior, MN, 11-2:30 PM. Raymond Ostrom was one-of-a-kind. His sense of humor-legendary, his zest for life-unexcelled, his creative imagination-boundless. Fiercely independent, he lived his life according to his own map; and, he lived it to the fullest. As the son of Swedish immigrant parents, Ray truly lived the American Dream. www.Washburn-McReavy.com Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

Tribute Wall

RC

“ Ray came into my life in 1970 and taught me the finer points of fishing for Walleye and Muskies, his favourite game fish. I then had the pleasure of working for him at Normark Canada from 1971 until his retirement in 1984. Your eulogy Kathy truly showed his character and love for his family and the outdoors. I am blessed and honoured to have known Ray this past 40 years and will always remember his phone greeting “Boy you’re looking good” The world has truly lost a great father and sportsman.

~

Roger Cannon,

Oshawa, Ontario

Contact Me

Roger Cannon - June 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *Cathy, Joe and Family, May you find comfort in the love that surrounds you at this difficult time. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

~

Marc Flechsig,

Richfield, Minnesota

Marc Flechsig - June 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ *The funeral service was an absolutely beautiful and memorable tribute to Ray! It brought back many memories of your families visits to Mille Lacs and also of so many other people from the "resort days" that I haven't thought about in so many years! Thank you Cathy, for sharing with me, one of your memories of us as kids and triggering it all! It was really wonderful to see you and Kirk again after all of these years, if only briefly and under such difficult circumstances. God bless you and your family during this most difficult time. With our thoughts and prayers...on behalf of the Maciosek family Betty (Willard), Mike, Tom & Audrey (Johnson)*

~

Betty Willard,

Maple Grove, Minnesota

Contact Me

Betty Willard - June 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ I will always remember a kind and understanding man, with a great enthusiasm for fishing and for fishermen. His passing is a sad loss. John E. Mitchell Former Managing Director Normark Sport Ltd. UK

~

John Mitchell,

Newton Abbot

Contact Me

John Mitchell - June 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *Cathy and family - our thoughts and prayers are with you. Although I didn't know them well, your dad (and mom) were special people.*

~

Deb Butler,

Angle Inlet, Minnesota

Deb Butler - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ I had the opportunity to meet and fish with Ray as a young guide out of Flag Island Resort in 1988. My sympathies go out to his family, he truly was a wonderful person

~

Dan Klis,

Angle Inlet, Minnesota

Dan Klis - June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I have so many good childhood memories of Ray. We were neighborhood friends and he was in our wedding. My sympathy and prayers go out to his family at his sad time. Neil Aase

June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

HM

“ A man that loved the outdoors, and had a "special way" with people.

~

Howie Miller,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Howie Miller - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EP

“ Ray epitomized excellence both as a fisherman and a person. His contributions to the fishing industry were immeasurable. He was an example to all on doing things the right way. He has influenced countless anglers in MN and beyond. He has left a void none will fill. Fishing with him on Lake of the Woods is something I will long remember as one of my most cherished fishing trips. Here's to Ray...one more cast.

~

Ed Philpot,

Oakdale, Minnesota

Ed Philpot - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ My sympathies to the Ostrom family. I'am a "shirt-tale" relative, and vaguely remember Ray from when I was a child. Ray's mother Esther, was my grandmother's sister. My grandmother was Emma [Norell] Olson. I think I may possibly have a childhood picture of Ray in my Grandmother's pictures. I will forward it to you if indeed I have one. I'm sorry I didn't have the pleasure of knowing Ray...he must have been an amazing man. My sympathies....

~

Lori Treptow,

Red Wing, Minnesota

Contact Me

Lori Treptow - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *You took me along and gave me a life time of hunting and fishing.
Thank you*

~

Mudhen

June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ *Cathy, Joe & kids: Please accept our deepest sympathy on your losses. Meeting your parents some years ago, I was impressed by their charm and love for all things about their kids. They will be missed.*

~

Shelly Nordtorp Madson,

Edina, Minnesota

Shelly Nordtorp Madson - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ *Having worked at Normark and then with Ray's nephew in another job, it is clear what a wonderful man the world lost. My condolences.*

~

Shaun Kuffel,

Maple Grove, Minnesota

Contact Me

Shaun Kuffel - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ Ray was a good friend when we were young and members at Holy Communion Church. My dad and Ray's dad, were fishing partners. My sincere sympathies to the family are sent with this message.

~

Arne Johnson,

Princeton, Minnesota

Arne Johnson - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ I'll always keep a part of you & Norma in my heart! You've both done more for the girls & I than you'll ever know! sad to see you leave/glad you are together...Love to the family!

~

angela white,

ashland, Wisconsin

angela white - June 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry my family a far, this is Lori Kim. Ruebens granddaughter. My mom Barbara, dad Terry Sparks and I send our prayers and love.I have many fun memories! Gods peace Kirk, Kathy and family.

June 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM