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Ellis "Van" C. VanDeventer

Age: 13

Feb 27, 2002

Ellis "Van" C. VanDeventer, Ellis "Van" C. VanDeventer was born Aug. 13, 1927 in Detroit to the late Lyle and Clara VanDeventer. He graduated from Cooley High School in 1945.

After serving his country in the U.S. Army, Van enrolled at Central Michigan College of Education in Mt. Pleasant. While attending Central, he met Marie Thomas and they were married in East Jordan, Dec. 17, 1949. He was a member of Delta Sigma Phi, the track team and cross country team at Central. He graduated from Central in 1950, earned a masters degree from the University of Michigan in 1953 and later served on the CMU alumni board.

Mr. VanDeventer's career in education started in Kaleva as a teacher. Subsequently, he was superintendent of schools in Elsie, Bay Port, Hartland and Gladwin. The Gladwin Intermediate School was built during his tenure as superintendent and he also served on the Gladwin School Board after retiring as superintendent. Van was on the original Board of Trustees for Mid Michigan Community College and later served as Vice President of Student Services for Mid Michigan Community College. Mr. VanDeventer also spent several years representing Doubleday Brothers & Co. and the McFadden Corporation in northern lower Michigan.

As a boy, his summers were spent on family farms in Elsie and Ithaca. He was active for many years in golf and bowling leagues in Gladwin. Deer season was Van's favorite time of year. He was a member of the Nine Point Hunting Club for over 30 years. In recent years, Van and his wife Marie spent their winters in Frostproff, Fla. where they made many new friends.

Mr. VanDeventer was a member of the Gladwin United Methodist Church since moving to Gladwin in 1959. He was also a member of the Gladwin VFW Post 7303. He lived his life practicing "the Golden Rule" and one of his sayings was "keep smiling." His family and friends will dearly miss him.

He is survived by his wife Marie; sons Tom and Susan of Petoskey, Bob and Deb of Saginaw, Jim and Karen of Milford and Dave and Emily of Norwood, N.C.; sisters, Marilyn Newlon and Susan Warner; brother Bob VanDeventer; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Visitation is from 2 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2012 at Hall Funeral Home, 440 E. Cedar Ave., Gladwin. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, 2012 at the Gladwin United Methodist Church.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Mid Michigan College Scholarship and Grant Fund or Mid Michigan Visiting Nurses.

Hall Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.