



Frank KOLLER

July 28, 1921 - May 15, 2011

Frank Raymond Koller was born on July 28, 1921 in Chicago to Frank Koller and Rose Koller (Reiger) and died on May 15, 2011 in Marshfield after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife Betty Jane Koller (Leasure), nieces Lenore Dollries (Smith), Cynthia Burns, Barbara Weingarden (Burns) and grand niece Alison Weingarden. Frank and Betty had one son Frank Berkley Koller who passed on November 6, 1978. Frank also survived 2 sisters Rose Smith and Rae Meyer.

Frank and Betty met in grade school in Chicago and both graduated from Hirsh High School in 1941. Frank joined the Navy on September 19, 1942. Betty followed him to California where they eloped on August 21, 1943 before he set off for the South Pacific. Frank was a radio operator during the war and was honorably discharged in 1945.

After his discharge Frank worked with Betty's family on the cranberry marshes in the Rapids where he got his interest in the cranberry business. In 1946 the Kollers moved up to Manitowish Waters to start their own cranberry business. Of the 5 original growers in the area Frank was the last survivor. In addition to the Manitowish Waters marsh, Frank also had 2 other marshes at one time – Fifield and Oneida.

Frank joined the Mason's in 1955 and was ordained to the 33rd degree in

2010. Frank was also a Shriner and Lions club member. Frank was a charter member of the Manitowish Waters Community Church and the local fire department.

Frank was an avid car and antique collector and took great joy in giving tours of his collections. He also exhibited his cars in the local parades. He was also an avid wild life enthusiast from planting trees, feeding birds to taking in stray dogs.

Frank and Betty's philanthropy have been far reaching including the building and maintenance of the Manitowish Waters Community Church Carillon and Tower and the Veteran's Memorial in Pine Lawn Cemetery and wholly providing for the Frank B Koller Library. They started the Koller Behavior Center in Minocqua. They started Scholarships at the University of Wisconsin for Cranberry Growing and Lakeland and Mercer High Schools for Vocational students. They purchased the land for the Manitowish Waters Town Park on Rest Lake and are supporters of the Masonic Learning Center for Dyslexia, the Rawhide Ranch and the Marshfield Clinic, Lawton Center and Laird Center. Their latest endeavor is a deferred donation to the Marshfield Clinic to complete the second Laird Center for research. When Frank saw a need, he pursued supporting that need.

Funeral services will be on Saturday May 21, 2011 at 11 AM in the Manitowish Waters Community Presbyterian Church. Visitation will be from 9 – 11 AM at the church on Saturday. Burial will follow at Pinelawn Cemetery with Military honors. A Masonic Service will be held on Friday May 20, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the Bolger Funeral Home-Woodruff Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Frank Koller Library in Manitowish Waters or charity of donor's choice.

Tribute Wall

KP

“ Frank and Betty used to take me and my cousins for car rides to get candy and ice cream every summer. I met them through my grandparents Bruce and Jeanette Potter. I will never forget all the great memories we had with him.

Ksilly Potter - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

NR

“ Betty: I was unable to attend the funeral and want to extend to you my deepest sympathy. To lose your husband and friend of so many years is a grief compared to no other. May it comfort you to know that so many others share your sadness at this time. He leaves a legacy compared to few and that legacy is shared with such devotion from you. Unfortunately he is no longer with us, but his generosity, his fairness, his friendship with so many will always be with us who knew him. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Norma Rusch

Norma Rusch - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

MS

“ My cousin Kathy (Sr. Benedict's sister) wrote me an e-mail asking me to extend her sympathy to you. She said she remembers both of you and Frankie when she would stay with my mom and dad as a little girl and at least once they ate at your house and it was a 7-layer casserole! How special are those childhood memories! She will also inform Sr. Benedict of Frank's passing. I wanted to send this before I forget! Will talk to you soon. Love, Mutz

Mary M Scheld - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

MF

“ I only today learned of Frank's passing and I am filled with sadness and also a flood of wonderful, happy memories of the many times we shared together. Frank was loving and caring, funny and generous. He inspired us to have two sons and make time for them and our daughter. He and Betty shared a respect for the cranberry industry and an appreciation of the lasting power of education and research. It was an honor and privilege to have known Frank and our love and condolences go to Betty. We are sorry to have not been at the funeral to share our support and love personally. Frank and Betty were guests at our wedding - and this year we will be married 20 years. Our love, Marcy and Ken Heim

Marcy and Ken Heim and family - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM