



## Jim Sprague

September 6, 2011

James W. Sprague

James W. Sprague, retired Minocqua businessman, died in a beautiful little clearing in the woods on Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2011. A long-time Minocqua resident, Jim owned Sprague Insurance in Minocqua, and had also been in the insurance business in Rhinelander, Fargo, N.D. and Watertown, S.D.

He was born to Charles and Ethel Sprague, Feb. 23, 1927, in Terre Haute, Ind.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife of 61 years, Frances (Palmer) of Minocqua; his two daughters, Susan Jacobsen of Hazelhurst and Kathryn Sprague of Milwaukee; his sister, Beverly Tyler of Venice, Fla.; sister-in-law, Tillie Palmer of Armour, S.D.; and nephew, Richard Potts of Rochester Hills, Mich.

Jim was preceded in death by his beloved son-in-law, Kai Jacobsen; his parents; his brother, Fred; and two sisters, Elizabeth (Sullivan) and Barbara (Potts).

Jim earned a bachelor's degree in biology at Yankton College in Yankton, S.D. While at Yankton he played college sports, part of a life-long love of sports and the outdoors. Jim was an avid golfer, fisherman, gardener and hunter.

Given half a chance he would regale anyone standing still with his hunting stories. He was especially fond of the wild and wooly times he spent hunting and fishing on the Oahe Reservoir in South Dakota with his late buddy, Tooie Tubandt.

A co-founder of the Rhinelander Rotary Club, Jim was a Rotary member for decades in the various towns where he resided. He believed in giving back to the communities in which he lived and was a volunteer for the Minocqua American Legion, Madsen-Empey Post 89. It was a great disappointment to him that he could not serve in World War II so he was extremely pleased when he was made an honorary member of Legion Post 89 where he was a regular cook for steak night.

Jim loved his garden, especially his roses - the heavily perfumed ones. He made sure there were fresh roses or dahlias on the kitchen table all summer long. He delighted in picking fresh fruit and vegetables, often giving them away to neighbors and friends.

Jim had a great sense of humor and loved a good joke. He was thoughtful and generous. He loved "his girls" (Fran, Sue and Kate) and cared for them well. He will be dearly missed.

The Sprague family would like to give special thanks to Joe Pestka, Joe's assistant, the Lincoln County paramedics, the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department and the Minocqua Police Department.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Northwoods Wildlife Center located in Minocqua or Dr. Kate Hospice in Woodruff.

# Tribute Wall

MG

“ *Wish I could be there with you. I will be thinking about your family at this unhappy time.*

*Maggie*

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**Maggie Gustafson** - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

MR

“ *Jim was always ready to stop in and share a story, the state of his garden, the birds, or bring a sample of the melons he purchased. He was willing to "help out" any way he could. He will be greatly missed.*

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**Milly Reinemann** - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

JH

“ *We're sad to learn of the passing of another of the Parkway coffee-klatchers. Jim taught me a lot about gardening when I was a kid and I garden to this day. My only regret is that I never asked him to teach me anything about golf -- he was pretty good at that too!*

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**joe handrick** - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM