



John Hirvela

September 12, 1926 - December 16, 2009

John Hirvela, 83, of Lake Tomahawk, died December 16, 2009 at Taylor Park Nursing Home in Rhinelander. Born September 12, 1926 in Brantwood, son of Finnish immigrant farmers Alfred and Lily Hirvela. He is survived by one sister, June Martin of New Berlin, and preceded in death by one half sister, Lillian Stuart of San Francisco. At age 17, John enlisted in the navy and served two years in the medical core during World War II. Following this, he completed his bachelor's and master's degree in School administration at UW Eau Claire, where he met his wife, Jean Ann Kelly of Ogema. The couple was married December 23, 1951 and the month celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary. John and Jean Ann were educators for 10 years in Tripoli, where John taught history and social studies and later served as principal and superintendent. The couple moved to Edgar in 1960, where he served as superintendent for 23 years, and Jean Ann taught first grade. He received a special recognition on behalf of his service to handicapped children in Marathon County. Later in life, John and his wife had one daughter, Joanne Hirvela, 34, who is a Doctor of Clinical Psychology in Minneapolis. In retirement, John and Jean Ann loved to travel and went on many cruises. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, and sight-seeing. A Memorial Service will be held at 11:30 AM on Saturday, January 30, 2010, with visitation at 11:00 AM until the time of service. Burial will be in the Prentice Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Ascension Lutheran Church.

Tribute Wall

MD

“ Dear Mrs. Hirvela, I have heard Carol speak of John with much respect and caring. She told me about her last visit with him and how sad she felt about his situation.

I had the privilege of being with Carol when she died and on her behalf would like to express my sympathy to you and your family. Reading about John and your life together helps me understand how Carol thought of you both with great fondness.

May you find comfort in the memories of all you shared.

Sincerely, Mary Ann Dykes

Mary Ann Dykes - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM

JS

“ Mrs. Hirvela,

I was so saddened last night to learn of Mr. Hirvela's death. He was a very special teacher. I remember so well, him talking about his visit to South America and his awe of, perhaps it was the Andes Mountains. Also, I remember those records he played us in 8th grade of Roosevelt's Fireside and Winston Churchill's radio broadcasts during WWII. I didn't realize he served in that war. You two both look forever young, I'm so glad you both got to come to our 40th class reunion.

I know you miss him very much, my prayers to you and your family.

Judy Schoch

Judy Korpela Schoch - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM