

Earl M. Cruden, Jr., 90, beloved husband of the late Judy for 34 years, and the late Molly K. for 28 years, passed away on Saturday, January 23, 2016, surrounded by his family.

A proud WWII Navy veteran, Purple Heart recipient, and active member of the Disabled American Veterans, Earl was an amazing man with an amazing story and through all life brought him, he had a gift to be able to slow life down, enjoy every moment, and in his own way, document it.

He was born in Detroit, Michigan to the late Earl, Sr. and Florence Cruden. Raised in Redford, Michigan it was not long after high school that he joined the United States Navy in the fall of 1943. He served proudly on boat PT 79. He was injured in battle in December of 1944 on the island of Maduro. Earl was a gunner on the boat when a kamikaze pilot dove down toward the boat. He was injured from the explosion while shooting down the plane. He would end up losing an eye and almost lost his leg if it were not for a brave young doctor. All at the age of 19.

Following his time in the Navy, Earl went back to school to become an engineer. Although the big three would not take him on because of only having one eye, this did not stop Earl. After starting a career as an engineer working in aerospace, he made his way into the automotive industry with and he worked proudly for Holly Carburetor for many years. He was an aftermarket engineer and he retired in 1985. Following retirement he moved up north to Lupton, Michigan where he resided with his wife Judy until her passing in 2015.

Earl and his wife Molly had one daughter, Colleen. After the death of his wife Molly in 1979, Earl later married Judy. He loved to travel and take family trips. Some of his favorites were to Yellowstone, East coast, West coast, and going up north to see his family and spend time with them. While on road trips, Earl always enjoyed taking his time and seeing the sights. He would proclaim "I love to travel a road I have never taken and eat somewhere I have never eaten".

Some of his favorite things he enjoyed were being active in the Disabled American Veterans by selling poppies and putting flags out, photographing sunsets in 35mm film, being in nature, wildlife, hunting, fishing, and journalizing and documenting all of his daily adventures and things he saw throughout the day. He loved his peppermint schnapps, singing and crosswords, reading the newspaper, antiquing, and going to auctions. He and Judy enjoyed time as snowbirds in Gulf Shores, Alabama every year during retirement. They made many friends and he was even involved in the Michigan Club with other Michiganders. And last but not least, Earl loved his Detroit Red Wings. He had many great memories from the early days at the Olympia with Gordie Howe and always enjoyed following them. His grandson Brian took him to Washington, D.C. on Honor Flight and was given a hero's welcome. A day he will never forget. He was well known as an honest man and someone who enjoyed his family and not drift away from his routine.

Earl is survived by his daughter, Colleen Constantineau (Tom). Proud grandfather of Brian Constantineau (Stephanie) and Lisa LeFeve. Devoted great-grandfather of Edward, Quinn, Vincent, and Anthony. Dear brother of the late Donald (late Dorothy) and the late Lois Jones (Late Dave). He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

The family would like to express their sincere thanks to all the people at the Blue Water Hospice Home in Marysville, Michigan for their loving care of Earl.

Family will receive friends on Thursday, January 28, 2016 from 3-8 pm at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel) 32515 Woodward Ave (between 13-14 Mile).

A funeral service will be celebrated on Friday, January 29, 2016 at 11:00am at the funeral home.

Interment will take place in Roseland Park Cemetery in Berkley, Michigan.

Those wishing to make an expression of sympathy are asked to consider either the Blue Water Hospice House in Marysville, Michigan or a donation to Honor Flight in Earl's memory.

- See more at: http://www.desmondfuneralhome.com/obituary/Earl-M.-Cruden-Sr./_/1583428#sthash.7Z21wE8u.dpuf