



Leonard A. DeFrain

January 1, 1920 - February 28, 2020

Leonard A. DeFrain, "Pic", age 100 of Harbor Beach, passed away Friday, February 28, 2020 at Harbor Beach Community Hospital.

He was born on January 1, 1920 In Harbor Beach to the late George and Catherine (Murray) DeFrain. He and Eileen Bell were united in marriage. Eileen preceded him in death on June 19, 2002. Leonard was a World War II Veteran, serving in the US Army. He is a member of the American Legion Post 197 of Harbor Beach for over 75 years, Our Lady of Lake Huron Catholic Church, Harbor Beach Lions Club for over 65 years, and the Knights of Columbus of Harbor Beach. Leonard was a local historian, and had an extensive coaching career. He coached, baseball, track and basketball, all between Ruth, Port Austin, and OLLH for 73 years.

Leonard is survived by his daughters: Lynn (Shawn) Robinson of Brutus, MI, Lori (Carl) Holdwick of Ruth, 8 grandchildren, 2 step grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and 4 step great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a step daughter Gloria (Art) Martin, and 10 brothers and sisters.

Funeral Mass for Leonard will be Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 11:30 at Our Lady of Lake Huron Catholic Church, of the Holy Name of Mary Parish.

Visitation for Leonard will be Tuesday, from 2-8pm at the Ramsey Funeral Home of Harbor Beach. Visitation on Wednesday will be at the church beginning at 10 am until time of Services at 11:30 am.

Memorials may be given to the Cross in the Woods, and Leader Dog for the

Blind.

Memories can be shared at www.RamseyFH.com

Cemetery Details

OLLH Church Cemetery

Harbor Beach, MI 48441

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 3. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Ramsey Funeral Home, Inc
425 State St
Harbor Beach, MI 48441
(989) 479-3407
<https://www.ramseyfh.com>

Mass

MAR 4. 11:30 AM (ET)

Our lady of Lake Huron Catholic Church
Harbor Beach, MI 48441

Tribute Wall



“ Leonard A. DeFrain

October 04, 2023 at 01:24 PM



“ We are two generations of out-of-state Michiganders who looked forward to Mr. DeFrain's weekly column in the Minden City Herald. He brought our history to light and life. Thank you, dear friend, for bringing us home again. Claude & Deb Lackowski and in memory of Sylvia Messing Landon.

Claude & Deb - March 11, 2020 at 06:26 PM



“ Trina Bailey lit a candle in memory of Leonard A. DeFrain



trina bailey - March 03, 2020 at 09:46 PM



“ JoAnn Sutton lit a candle in memory of Leonard A. DeFrain



JoAnn Sutton - March 03, 2020 at 05:35 PM

“ *'Pic' celebrated after 100 years*

More than a century of history resides within heart of local historian, eager to share stories

By Sara Eisinger, Huron Daily Tribune

HARBOR BEACH -- On Jan. 1, 2020, Leonard DeFrain was honored with an open house at the Harbor Beach American Legion Hall, celebrating his 76 years of membership and 100th birthday. Partially hunched forward at a little round table in his kitchen, sat the embodiment of more than a century's worth of knowledge and history. Locals know him as Pic.

"Years ago, a guy I knew called me Pic," he said. "Then, everyone started calling me it. Pic just stuck. Most people around here don't even know me by anything else."

Making Pic stand apart is not his age, rather the relentless devotion he has demonstrated to Huron County. Pic said he grew up in Harbor Beach and graduated with the class of 1938.

"Forty-five people graduated," Pic said. "Two of us are left. Many of us stayed in Harbor Beach, because a local company was hiring graduates."

Plans changed when Pic was drafted into the army during the World War II. He was only 19 years old.

"I was a typist," Pic said. "We interviewed about 600 or 700 draftees a day and typed up their personal reports. We typed eight to 10 hours per day, six days a week. Servicemen did the typing back then."

Pic was discharged in 1944 and wholly devoted himself to his community and local high school. He coached basketball for 73 years. He also coached baseball, softball and track. Pic discussed some of the changes he experienced during his seven decades of coaching.

"Gyms were a big change," Pic said. "At one time, we played in a gym that had sawdust in it. It was an extra large room. In Port Hope, it was only a hallway. We had to shoot over beams to make a basket. We played one game against Port Hope, where we lost 16-1. We scored one free throw in that game."

Pic served on the Harbor Beach City Council, beginning on Nov. 6, 1984, winning re-elections in November 1988 and November 1992. He consistently put generous amounts of time and energy into various local committees. He involved himself in multiple successful construction projects, including the municipal marina, North Park Campground, Trescott Street Pier, water treatment plant and city hall.

When speaking on his love for local history and writing, Pic only said he did it because he knew it. Pic understood how to teach others all the information he has collected over the years and has always enjoyed doing so.

"It's what keeps him going," Pic's Aide Bonnie Ramirez said, retrieving a napkin from the kitchen.

It was a good time for a picture and Ramirez decided to prepare him.

"Let's make you look presentable," Ramirez said, gently wiping away at his crumbs.

But Pic only wished to talk history and journalism.

"I am not going to publish," Pic said. "I have written many articles. I have written for the Minden Paper, Harbor Beach paper and Lakeshore Guardian."

Pic kindly asked Ramirez to pull out a book he wanted. While she went searching, Pic gave a short lesson on "Frank" William Francis Murphy. Murphy was a Democratic Politician and jurist birthed from Harbor beach. Murphy was named to Supreme Court of the United States in 1940. He also served as United States Attorney General, governor of Michigan and mayor of Detroit.

Pic eventually made his way into the room, where Ramirez helped him to sit. She found the book Pic had asked her to search for 15 minutes prior, as there was a lot to look through. He clenched onto it, proudly.

[Reproduced with permission from Sara Eisinger]

DD

Uncle Pic was the last of eleven DeFrain kids to live in Harbor Beach. All remaining relatives have since moved away, now living in all four corners and the center of the US.

David DeFrain - March 02, 2020 at 03:19 PM

MS

Pic was a great man!! He enriched and lifted up the lives of many people, and shared his vast knowledge of Huron County history freely and generously. Also, his dedicated work in Veterans' affairs helped departing and returning veterans, often those who had suffered much ... we have lost a wonderful caring person - a great leader and giver. May he have a joyful life, forever.

Mark Schmalz - March 03, 2020 at 01:41 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Leonard A. DeFrain.*



March 02, 2020 at 12:35 PM

SP

“ *Sue Pawlowski lit a candle in memory of Leonard A. DeFrain*



Sue Pawlowski - March 02, 2020 at 06:59 AM

KF

“ *Kipper And Waskiewicz Family lit a candle in memory of Leonard A. DeFrain*



Kipper and waskiewicz family - March 02, 2020 at 02:58 AM

KF

Your memories will live forever,rest in peace

Kipper and waskiewicz family - March 02, 2020 at 03:00 AM

PK

“ *Paul And Shannon Kuchnicki lit a candle in memory of Leonard A. DeFrain*



Paul and Shannon Kuchnicki - March 02, 2020 at 02:06 AM

MS

“ *Mick And Marge Schott lit a candle in memory of Leonard A. DeFrain*



Mick and Marge Schott - March 01, 2020 at 07:16 PM



“ *Beth Ann Schmalz Welker lit a candle in memory of Leonard A. DeFrain*



Beth Ann Schmalz Welker - March 01, 2020 at 05:42 PM

RS

“ *Rick And Lori Murawske And Sons lit a candle in memory of Leonard A. DeFrain*



Rick and Lori Murawske and sons - March 01, 2020 at 04:55 PM

DD

“ *Debbie And Dennis lit a candle in memory of Leonard A. DeFrain*



Debbie and Dennis - March 01, 2020 at 04:54 PM

RE

“ *Leonard was a very kind, knowledgeable man, who would do anything to answer any question you had for him!! He will be greatly missed by Harbor Beach!!*

Renee Ezack - March 01, 2020 at 01:00 PM



“ *Nancy Siemen lit a candle in memory of Leonard A. DeFrain*



Nancy Siemen - March 01, 2020 at 12:58 PM



“ *Nancy Siemen sent a virtual gift in memory of Leonard A. DeFrain*



Nancy Siemen - March 01, 2020 at 12:57 PM