

The Honorable William W. Stapleton, age 88, of Fremont, Michigan, formerly of Manistee, Michigan died Friday, January 4, 2012 in Fremont.

He was born on October 18, 1924 in Flushing, New York, son of the late John B. and Lillian M. (Walsh) Stapleton.

William served our country in the U.S. Navy during WW II in the South Pacific from 1942 until 1946. He married Alice E. Miller in July of 1978 in Manistee, Michigan. He received an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Law from the University of Notre Dame. He was a practicing Attorney for 19 years in Ludington and served as the Mason County Prosecuting Attorney from 1953 until 1958. He then served as the 85th District Court Judge in Manistee-Benzie for 14 years from June 3, 1970 to December 31, 1984.

He put on many meals at the Elks Lodge in Manistee and Ludington and enjoyed cooking and baking. His interests included music, piano, photography, woodworking, football and dabbling on the computer. He was a member of the B.P.O. Elks Lodge # 250 of Manistee and also the Michigan Bar Association.

Bill is survived by his wife, Alice E. Stapleton of Fremont, MI, seven sons, William W. Stapleton II of Byron Center, MI, John & his wife Valerie Stapleton and James Stapleton all of Scottville, MI, Christopher & his wife Bernadine Stapleton of North Aurora, IL, George Stapleton of Manistee, MI, Lee Stapleton of Foster City, CA and Timothy & his wife Odesa Stapleton of Whitehouse Station, NJ, seven daughters, Diane Stapleton & her husband Joe Bartos of Grawn, MI, Barbara Stapleton of Canton, MI, Lillian Stapleton of Traverse City, MI, Eva Stapleton of Alameda, CA Louise Stapleton & her husband Larry Williams of Christianson, Virgin Islands, Phoebe Stapleton & her husband Steve Bells of Reston, VA and E. Ann and her husband Gene Knapp of Hesperia, MI, 17 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren and one brother John F. and his wife Tina Stapleton of Arlington, VA.

Mass from The Order of Christian Funerals will be celebrated Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at 11:00 AM at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Manistee with Reverend John McCracken celebrant. Burial will follow at Mount Carmel cemetery in Manistee, where graveside military honors will be conducted by the members of the VFW Walsh Post #4499 of Manistee Ritual Squad.

The Evening Vigil Service will be prayed at the Herbert Funeral Home in Manistee, on Tuesday evening at 8:00 PM. The family will be at the funeral home on Tuesday evening from 6:00 to 9:00 PM to receive friends.

A memorial will be established in William's name for Hospice of Newaygo County. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home. **The Herbert Funeral Home of Manistee is in charge of funeral arrangements.**