

Charles J. "C.J." Spittler

Charles J. "C.J." Spittler, 89, of Black Lake Road, Mercer, died Wednesday, July 11, 2012, in his home.

He was born June 14, 1923, in Joliet, Ill., son of the late Chester and Bernice (Gorich) Spittler, attended Wicker Park Grammer School, and graduated from Lane Tech High School in 1941.

While at Lane Tech, he was a member of the boxing team. He then completed an apprenticeship and journeyman on bridge and structural iron work in Chicago.

Charles enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Jan. 1, 1943, participating in action against the enemy during World War II in the Philippine Islands, Okinawa and the Ryukyu Islands, and was honorably discharged as a corporal Jan. 19, 1946.



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Following his discharge, he was employed as a bridge and structural ironworker for 35 years, retiring from the City of Chicago with 27 years of service in 1981.

Charles was a member of the Mercer Lions Club where he served as Lion Tamer, Mercer-Manitowish Waters American Legion Post 424, NRA, Mercer Historical Society, and the Lake of the Falls Association. He was instrumental in the renovation of the Mercer Depot and creation of the museum complex which included the caboose, Shirley Sleight school house, jail and barbershop. He also took part in the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., on Oct. 4, 2010, which was a very rewarding and touching experience for him.

He enjoyed deer hunting and the opening day of deer season, fishing in earlier years, goose hunting with much success, reloading his own shells, wood carving, stain glass work and snowmobiling.

On May 25, 1946, he was united in marriage to the former Dolores F. Urman at Queen of Angels Church in Chicago.

Surviving are his wife, Dolores, of 66 years of marriage; one son, Charles "Chuck" Jr. (Pat), Chicago; and two grandchildren, Jeremy and Julie Spittler of Chicago.

Preceding Charles in death were a son Gerald "Jerry" and sister, Barbara Johnson.

In accordance with his wishes, cremation has taken place.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Aug. 18, 1 p.m., at the Veterans Memorial Park in Mercer, with Mercer Lion Bob Downing reading the prayer written by Mercer Lion Marty Koleno for their Lion brother "C.J."

Full military honors will be accorded by the combined Mercer Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9536 and Mercer-Manitowish Waters American Legion Post 424 Honor Guard.

In the event of rain, services and military rites will take place at the Mercer Community Center on Margaret St.

Luncheon will follow at the Pine Tree Hideaway on Popko Circle.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Honor Flight Inc., P.O. Box 5056, Wausau, WI 54402-5056, www.neverforgottenhonorflight.org.

Arrangements are entrusted to McKevitt-Patrick Funeral Home, Inc., Ironwood, Mich.