

Claude A. Donna - Obituary

Claude A. Donna of St. Johnsbury passed away at The Pines Health & Rehab Center in Lyndonville on Wednesday, July 16, 2014 at the age of 88. He lived in the St. Johnsbury area his whole life, most recently at 27 Bragg Terrace and before that at the corner of Summer and Mt. Pleasant streets.

He was born in St. Johnsbury, Vt. on April 25, 1926 in the original farmhouse on Gilman Avenue. He was the oldest of seven children born to Leo and Marie (Poliquin) Donna. His wife of over 63 years, Mary Jeanne (Dauphin) Donna predeceased him on March 31, 2011.



He is survived by one brother Normand Donna and wife Susan of Bunnell, Fla., two sisters Gertrude Turner and husband Robert of St. Johnsbury, Dorothy Lynaugh and husband Reg Leonard of St. Johnsbury, a brother-in-law, Gerard Chaloux of Waterford, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a sister, Gemma Chaloux, two brothers, Roger Donna and Robert Donna, a sister-in-law, Jane (Wilkins) Donna, a brother-in-law, Gordon Lynaugh, and several brothers and sisters in law on Mary Jeanne's side as well as several nieces and nephews on both sides.

Having been brought up on farms in St. Johnsbury and Waterford, his early working years were spent farming for his father. He eventually became a clerk at the US Post Office in St. Johnsbury where he served for 22 years, retiring in 1986. He was a parishioner at St. John the Evangelist Church. A past grand knight, Claude was a member of the Knights of Columbus Sheridan Council # 421 for over 50 years. His favorite hobby was being a handyman. He liked to make things, design them or repair them. In the 1960s he received a patent from the US Patent office, but was never lucky enough to sell it for production. His proudest achievement was getting the Australian ballot passed for St. Johnsbury taxpayers along with the help of Russ Hutchins.

Visiting hours will be held at the Sayles Funeral Home this Friday, July 18 from 6-8 p.m.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated this Saturday, July 19, at 11 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church in St. Johnsbury. Burial will follow at the Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Memorial contributions could be directed the Good Shepherd School, 121 Maple St., St. Johnsbury VT 05819.