

## Robert Garand



Bob, the second oldest in a family of fifteen, was born in Storthoaks, Saskatchewan, Monday, September 9, 1912. At age nine, his family moved to Dunrea, MB where Bob attended school and farmed for a few years before going to Chicago in 1939 to take a mechanics course. Bob joined the Royal Canadian Navy in 1942, completed his military training in Halifax, and was deployed to Scotland and then England in 1943.

During the Normandy Invasion, on June 6, 1944, Petty Officer Garand was the Chief Engineer on the landing craft, LCI-L 118, which lead the flotilla and was the first ship to arrive on Juno Beach. Under heavy enemy fire, they hit the beach and struck a mine which punctured the hull. When the tide came in that evening, they were able to get their ship off the beach and sailed the damaged and leaking ship back to England. For his meritorious actions, Bob was mentioned in dispatches and proudly wore the associated Oak Leaf along with his numerous other Navy medals. He received an

honourable discharge from the Navy in late 1945. In December 2015, Bob received recognition for his participation in the liberation of France when France awarded him their highest decoration; the National Order of the Legion of Honour - Knight.

Back in Canada after the war, Bob moved to The Pas where he met Julie Frechette. They were married on June 4, 1947 and raised nine children; six girls and three boys. Bob worked as a mechanic and in 1956 he started his own business, Garand's Repair Shop, eventually renamed Northern Welding. He sold the business in the mid-seventies and retired. During their many years of retirement, Bob and Julie enjoyed spending time at their cabin at Clearwater Lake, travelling to visit with family and friends, and spending winters in Arizona and California.

Bob remained a year-round active golfer until he was almost ninety . He was one of the original members of the Monday Night Bridge Club and received the top award from the Bridge Club when he was 102, after 41 years as a member. Throughout his life, Bob attended church regularly; he was an active member of the Knights of Columbus Charlebois Council since December 1, 1946. He served as Grand Knight in 1958-59 and was a fourth degree Knight. Bob was active with the Royal Canadian Legion for many years. Bob passed away at home in The Pas, Manitoba, on Sunday, January 10, 2016, at the age of 103 years.

Bob will be lovingly remembered by his nine children; thirteen grandchildren; three brothers and two sisters and seventy-five nieces and nephews. Bob was predeceased by his wife Julie in 2000; his father August in 1967; his mother Roseanna (Fortier) in 1966; and five brothers and four sisters:

A service of remembrance to celebrate Bob's life was held Saturday, January 16, 2016 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Cathedral, The Pas, Manitoba, with Father Paul Bringleston presiding. Music ministry was provided by Rochelle Rydberg. Scripture readings were proclaimed by Rachel Young and Scott Rodgers. Memories of the heart were shared by Lawrence Garand, Len Garand and Dave Rodgers. Legion Tribute by Comrade Murray Harvey. Honor Guard were the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #19, Knights of Columbus Charlebois Council #2704, the RCMP, and the Legion Ladies Auxiliary.

Following interment prayers at Riverside Catholic Cemetery, The Pas, a reception was held at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall. In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 19 Building Fund, Box 478, The Pas, Manitoba, R9A 1K6.