



Francis Paul "Jim" Tlapek

January 7, 2011

The soul of Francis Paul "Jim" Tlapek has moved on. His exceptionally kind and generous spirit animated his body 96 years. He will be missed, especially by his wife Helen and their children, who shared their love and support, perhaps never more than in the last years. His spirit was big. Spirited friends and business associates figured largely in his life, too -- there was the gang he had fish fries with, and breakfast at Wimpy's. There were the couples with whom he and Helen played bridge, or spent nearly a lifetime together attending St. Vincent's Church and raising their families. He was especially endeared to the people he worked with at Cape Electrical Supply. Tlapek made his first career, which spanned about 25 years, as a Chevrolet dealer in Ste. Genevieve, Mo., and Perryville, Mo. He grew up in St. Mary, Mo., son of John Joseph Tlapek and Annie Teresa Jokerst. Survivors include a brother, Pat (Anne) Tlapek of Cape Girardeau; and a sister, Rose (Bill) Perkinson of St. Louis. He had two more brothers and a sister, Charles "Buddy" (Eloise) of Ste. Genevieve, Tom (Ginny), Joe (Jerry) and Josephine (Harvey) Warrington, all of St. Louis. He clearly loved his family, folks and grandpa, as well as St. Mary and the townspeople. Shortly after his marriage to Helen Page Hanes of Jerseyville, Ill., May 11, 1951, in St. Louis, he moved to Cape Girardeau and with some partners entered into his second career with Cape Electrical which also spanned about 25 years. He was a veteran of the Navy in World War II, serving at Lambert Field, the Asian Pacific and Indonesia. He was a member of Knights of Columbus. Tlapek was a man of tremendous hope and vision,

great perseverance. He was an investor in equities and land. Notably, he and a partner developed real estate on the south side of William Street where A&P (now Stev-Mark West) and Burger Chef (now Hardee's) began. He and Helen built a fine house near Dennis Scivally Park before there were many houses in the area. He liked to travel the United States with his family and took many fishing trips to Lake of the Woods, Ontario. For many years he enjoyed a farm between Chaffee and New Hamburg, Mo. For several years he enjoyed boating and working on a place at Kentucky Lake, and later enjoyed a farm and small lake in Bollinger County. He loved life, which began for him Aug. 26, 1914, and spanned 96 years, 4 months and 11 days, until Jan. 7, 2011. His offspring are Francis "Paul" Tlapek (Renee) of Cape Girardeau, their son Benjamin; Margaret Tlapek (Gary Seesing) of Prairie Village, Kan., their children Frances, Clare, John "Jack"; Janet Tlapek of Saranac, Mich., her daughter Madeleine Tlapek Lavean; Greg Tlapek of Cape Girardeau; and Therese Tlapek (Bud Owens) of Nashville, Tenn., and their children Anna and Joseph; and a great-granddaughter, Lilly Seesing. A Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, January 10, 2011 at St. Vincent de Paul Church on Ritter Drive. Ford and Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. The family asks that you send a note or simply honor his memory by being kind, generous or patient when it would be easier to do otherwise.

Tribute Wall

DB

“ Dear Therese, You and your family have my sympathy on the passing of your dad. I like your thoughts on "memorial tributes"... To be remembered through a kind act is a wonderful contribution to society. Thinking about you, Darlene Scherer Bullinger

Darlene Scherer Bullinger - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BV

“ Dear Greg, may God gives you strenght and peace in this difficult moment. Hugs, Balford.

Balford A. Vargas - November 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ You are all in my thoughts and prayers at this time. I have such special memories of your entire family over many years. Jim Tlapek was a very kind and gentle person and I am blessed for having known him. I will honor him with your beautiful request. Mary Beth

Mary Elizabeth (Wrape) Denton - November 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Therese, Bud, Anna and Joseph, Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you. We were so very sorry to hear of the loss of Therese's father. What an incredible life he lead. I know you all will miss him dearly.

Mark and sue Hinson - October 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ *Helen, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. We fondly remember all the good times we had playing bridge with you and Jim in our card group. God bless you!* ”

Steve and Diane Mueller - October 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ *Greg, our family's thoughts & prayers are with your family. Our condolences* ”

Mark & Barbara Kinder - October 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *We are very sorry for your loss; you are in our thoughts.* ”

Jim & Athelene Gosnell - October 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PL

“ *JIM WILL BE MISSED BY EVERYONE THAT KNEW HIM. OUR FAMILY WILL PRAY FOR ALL HIS LOVED ONES.* ”

Pat Rickey & Gene LaFont - October 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Our Thoughts and prayers go out to your family in this time of sorrow. It was such a good feeling to see my dad so happy when he was around Jim. The memories of the 1988 trip to Canada I will never forget. Between nearly running out of gas in the middle of nowhere, to "catching so many fish my arms would fall off", that trip brought record setting temps of 95* and fishing 40 ft deep to barely get enough fish for a good shore lunch, to smuggling "great" pine saplings back across the border without getting caught, to tasting that great Labatts beer. It was such a pleasure to have known Mr Tlapek and your family is so blessed to have nothing but great memories to get you thru these sad times.

Chris and Rhonda Mirgeaux - October 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you. There re no words of real comfort at this time but the continued love and unity of your family with make the journey bearable. You are a special family, know that I am here for you.

Margaret Lacey - October 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ So sorry to hear of the loss of your father. What a wonderful family you are blessed with. I remember many fun times growing up in the neighborhood with you. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of you.

peggy ressel mclain - September 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ As I reflect upon personal memories, it's easy to recall the special times shared with Jim. Early fishing trips in motor homes to Canada, awesome fish fries all with many unique stories. Wandering Bollinger County exploring land, discussing investing with Jim and my dad which helped pave my future. So what a joy to think my dad is reunited with his best friend, i'm sure they are fishing somewhere, looking down on their thriving legacy.

Mike Mirgeaux - September 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Janet and Margaret you have my sympathy on the loss of your father. From the obituary it sounds as if he was an exceptional man. I know you will miss him. You and your family will be in my prayers. May God give you comfort as you mourn. Donna

Donna glueck kielhofner - September 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Janet, I want to express my sympathy for the loss of your Dad. He was a very kind man and I know he will be sadly missed by all of you. I will keep your Mom and family in my prayers.

Jan Summers - September 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Please accept my sincere condolences on the passing of your husband, father, grandfather Jim Tlapek. I knew Jim to be a kind, loving, generous soul, who raised four fine children to be wonderful people. Jim had the kind of life people envy, surrounded by excellent people, filled with adventure, rich with history, and untouched by tragedy. He is remembered with love, respect, and honor. I feel privileged to have known him.

David Kohlhagen - September 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ Prayers of peace and comfort are to sent to Aunt Helen and Family.

Tom, Tina and Daniel Tlapek - September 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ Dear Margaret and family: Please know that I am sending you all my love and gentle thoughts. I'm not totally certain, but I am guessing that Jim is in a nice soft loving blissful place, resting in the arms of the Beloved. At least that is my hope! Lotsa love to all, joni (Margaret, see you in May!)

joni newcomer - September 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Paul, Renee, and Ben our thoughts are with you. Mr. Tlapek was blessed with a very loving and caring family.

Jim, Pam, Taylor, and Jessica Thompson - September 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ I am so sorry to hear about your husband/father. My family has great memories of you all growing up, remember the raking the leaves in the fall, your dad cooking hot dogs and hot chocolate all day, what great times. I appreciate, as I know my mother did also, the friendship you all had with my parents. I wish I had seen your father in recent years to let him know what a great family he has raised, I am sure he knew. Love to all of you.

Cathie Campbell Larmie - August 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ My thoughts and prayers are with your family. He had a good life.

Susan Rutledge Kemp - August 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ So sorry to hear, my thoughts are with you.

Janet Miller - August 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM