



## Clarence "Jack" M. Combs

August 16, 1925 - April 3, 2013

Clarence "Jack" M. Combs, age 87, of Bloomingdale, passed away on April 4, 2013. Jack was born in Frenchburg, KY in 1925. Jack arrived in Bloomingdale in 1938 and worked in the Bloomingdale oil fields until he enlisted in WWII in 1942. He served in the Navy as a Machinest Mate from 1942-43. In 1944 Jack began a 2 year 3 month duty aboard the USS Hollis until his discharge in 1946. After he left the service, he married Mary Ellen Clark in 1947. Jack owned and operated a gas station in Bloomingdale until he was suddenly called back into service during the Korean War in 1951. Selling his business and leaving his wife with one child and expecting another was extremely difficult, but Jack dutifully answered his country's call. After 18 months aboard the USS Wasp Aircraft Carrier, he finally returned to be husband and father again. Jack entered Barber School and served many years in Bangor, Bloomingdale and South Haven. Through the Barber Shop and contacts made there, Jack decided to venture into real estate. He established Blue Star Realty Company and served as broker for nearly 30 years. Jack was very involved in the Bloomingdale Community especially the Boy Scouts serving as Scoutmaster for many years and was also a school board member. He was an avid hunter and fisherman teaching his children to love the outdoors. He loved his gardens bringing flowers and vegetables to many people. Jack was known throughout the area for his honesty and integrity. Jack is survived by his children, Tom (Cindy), Tim (Mary) and Kit (Nick) Hayes; grandchildren, Chris (Hilary), Ryan (Jessica), Erin (Matt) Schmuker, Jenny and Julie; great

grandchildren, Colin, Reid and Stella. At his request cremation has taken place. A private family service will be held at a later date. Arrangements by BLOOMINGDALE CHAPEL, D. L. Miller Funeral Home, [www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com](http://www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com).

# Tribute Wall

RY

“ *I wish to be as great a man one day as he was everyday!!  
We will miss you Gramps!  
Love Ryan, Jess and Stella Combs*

---

**ryan** - April 08, 2013 at 07:06 PM

JC

“ *The world and our family has lost an incredible man. My dear sweet Grandpa. There aren't enough words for the things I will miss about him. My grandpa who gave us handmade "tickets" when we were going too fast on our bikes, who started morning glories for the family every year, who grew the best tomatoes and cantaloupe in all of Michigan, who always greeted you with a bouquet of flowers, who let us switch gears when riding in his truck, who always had a stick of Juicy Fruit for us, who grew the most beautiful peonies, who picked us up and took us for sleepovers every weekend, who made our childhood so magical and happy, who could fix anything, who cut our bangs when we were little, who always saved his ones for when we went out to dinner and could play Keno, who kept a full cookie jar at all times, who made us slingshots, who told us morning stories in his bed of little girls and ducks, who took us fishing and taught us to love lakes, who danced in the living room with Grandma, who always had a Pepsi or a cold beer for anyone who stopped by, who taught us how to bet on the ponies, who chewed on his cigars, who served in not one but two wars, who never raised his voice to us, and who loved my sister and I more than anyone else ever will. I will miss you more than I can ever say. Thank you for loving us so completely.*



---

**Jenny Combs** - April 08, 2013 at 12:17 PM



“ *Jenny Baker lit a candle in memory of Clarence "Jack" M. Combs*



---

**Jenny Baker** - April 08, 2013 at 09:10 AM

DB

“ *Dana Bryant lit a candle in memory of Clarence "Jack" M. Combs*



---

**Dana Bryant** - April 08, 2013 at 07:38 AM

TF

“ *When i would meet Jack on on the street...he would throw out that Big Smile of his and say..."Hey Shinske !". Sorry to hear of you dads passing....Tom, Kit, and Tim. He was a wonderful man and will be missed by all !!*

---

**Tom Shinske and Family** - April 07, 2013 at 10:58 AM



“ *Margaret Brown lit a candle in memory of Clarence "Jack" M. Combs*



---

**Margaret Brown** - April 06, 2013 at 04:36 PM

DR

*Tom, Tim, Kit,  
Jack was such a pleasure to know all of these years! Going to Horse races with, playing Gin Rummy with Jack & your mom. What great memories. Your loving Daddy has left this old world a better place due to his shining life.*

*David Rumery*

---

**David Rumery** - April 10, 2013 at 01:50 PM

BS

“ *To the Family that Jack leaves behind ,Sons Tom, Tim and daughter Kitty.*

*Your father was a dear and close friend both as we worked together in the Barbershop in South Haven and then as partner's in our new founded Brokerage office Known as Blue Star Realty.*

*Jack was always there to encourage me support me and laugh about and share deeply our life's trials and joyous successes. He was like a dad to me in his leadership, direction and patience.*

*OH the fond memories I have about your farther my friend C-Jack.*

*Ben Stegman*

---

**Ben Stegman** - April 06, 2013 at 06:50 AM

BS

“ *My thoughts and prayers to his family and friends.*

*Oh the memories of sitting in dad's barber chair and listening to Uncle Jack, Dewey, and dad joke about what kind of haircut I would get if I did not sit still.*

*Uncle Jack gave me my first pocket knife... I still have it and had it in my hand on 4-3-12.*

*He will surely be missed but remembered!*

---

**Brian Stegman** - April 06, 2013 at 06:25 AM

 Kathy  
Clark  
Barrett

“ Whenever visiting Grandma and Grandad Baker, Jack & Mary Combs were also a part of our visit...they have been our lifelong friends, and to say he will be missed is an understatement. Mary & I took a watercolor class together many years ago in Paw Paw, and I'm always amazed how often my memories bring me back to that time. Jack was the type of neighbor that rarely exists any more. My mom (Flo) and brother (Leward) described him to a "t". I know the Combs family will greatly miss him - my love and prayers. Kathy (Clark) Barrett (one of the twins!)

---

**Kathy Clark Barrett** - April 06, 2013 at 04:10 AM

DR

“ Sending our very best to the Family of Jack and Mary.  
With Love,  
Don and Helen Remington

---

**Don and Helen Remington** - April 05, 2013 at 07:14 PM

FF

“ Jack was a 'constant' in the lives of the Bakers who lived next door. He was more than a neighbor, he was a servant to those around him. If there was a need, Jack filled it. If there was a rainy day, Jack filled it with sunshine. To say we will miss you is a great understatement. You will always be in our hearts Jack.

*Ron and Flo (Baker) Fluty*

---

**Flo (Baker) Fluty** - April 05, 2013 at 04:25 PM

LF

“ All five generations of our family who have lived next door to Jack have known that he and Mary were the best neighbors anyone could ever have. No one could be more gracious and caring than was Jack. He loved our children, who of course also adored him. So many flowers and vegetables brought to us, so many chats, so many smiles, so many laughs, so many tears shared between us. So many precious moments to savor. We love you, Jack, and we miss you terribly already.

*Leward, Amy, Becca, Abby, Vincent, & Emily*

---

**Leward Fluty** - April 05, 2013 at 02:09 PM