

Eulogy for Uncle Ed

Bozho Jayek. Kche Migwech ébyék - Hello Everyone and Thank you all for coming.

I'm sure Uncle Ed would be so pleased that you came to honor his memory and say a formal goodbye.

You know, Many times I've read the story of Enoch in the book of Genesis and ALL those times I never really thought much about what his **family** must have experienced when he came up missing...that is until we got the call 8 years ago that Uncle Ed had gone missing .

Uncle Ed was almost 84 years old at that time and needed assistance dressing and walking. I couldn't understand how he could just come up "**missing**". Like all of you, I was devastated and heartsick thinking what could have happened to him and what he might be going through. Having cared for him myself, I knew that he could not exist long without his medication. In fact, the **only** consolation for me was that sooner or later he would show up at an area hospital somewhere. But that didn't happen. Just like Enoch who one day walked amongst the people and the next day he was gone, our Uncle Ed was **GONE**. Now I was beginning to gain a little better perspective of how Enoch's family felt.

I must admit that I was angry. How could his caregivers let this happen!! I felt "let down" by the search team because the dogs couldn't find him, the people search couldn't find him, the inferred helicopters couldn't find him, and the media couldn't find him. It was hard being so far away from home at that time and hearing the worry and stress in my dad's voice over the phone. Jack called a couple of his buddies on the police force back in Michigan and they assured him that they were doing everything they could to find Uncle Ed. Still, how could a man who needed assistance walking come up missing?!! One day he was with us, the next day he was gone.

After the SHOCK of his disappearance began to wear off, I found myself SO grateful for the opportunity that Jack and I had to bring Uncle Ed into our home and care for him during some of the last days of his life. He was basically a very happy person and a lot of fun to have around. I loved how easily he could laugh at himself or anything else for that matter. His laughter and off the wall comments could get us all giggling for hours. He loved going out to eat, and going to church and concerts with us. He would clap his hands and sway to the music.

One of my favorite things was to listen in every day as his roommate would read the newspaper to him and believe you me, he had a **many** a colorful comment about **what** some of those "so and so's" deserved let me tell you! He loved watching old war movies with Jack and he would sometimes open up a little bit about what it was like during that time. His long term memory was pretty much in tact so watching those old movies with Jack was like going back into time for him.

Uncle Ed meant well and had such good intentions. For instance every time I got the vacuum out he would say, "I can do that for you if you want". I would say, "Sure, here you go", to which he would reply, "turn it off and I will do it later".

He was constantly losing things and worried about who was taking care of his money and **we** were **constantly** looking for his lost items and **constantly** reminding him that Bonnie was his guardian and taking good care of his money for him. He would always say "Good..She Knows!" It was so funny because when we first started taking him to church with us, he would go up to anyone and ask them who was taking care of his money. At first they didn't know what to do or say, but it wasn't long before the entire church would tell him that Bonnie takes good care of your money for you and buys you lots of nice clothes and things...to which he would reply, "Good..**She** Knows!" The church loved him and all of them helped to look after him and lovingly called him **Uncle Ed**.

Uncle Ed was a good son, a good brother, and a good uncle, and a good friend and we miss him.

With the help of my husband, brother and sisters, we put together this little flyer as a special reminder of our beloved uncle. We chose the military theme because we sometimes forget that the biggest gift that Uncle Ed gave to all of us was fighting for our freedom. Uncle Ed **was** a man of honor and though the war had lasting effects on him, we are so proud that he volunteered to defend our Country back in WWII.

It's true, we may never know what happened to Uncle Ed that day he went missing, and now all we have left of him are our memories. The first thing I think of when I remember Uncle Ed, and I'm pretty sure most of you share this thought, is what a "kind and generous gentleman" he was. Of course he had his faults and shortcomings as we ALL do, but no one can say that he was not mindful of the needs of those around him.

The Bible tells us in the book of Galatians that whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. I love the Bodéwadami translation of this: **I ye I égtegéyen, I yé I égish, ga gish igéyen.**

Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap. Though he had many tough breaks himself, Uncle Ed went about sowing **good** deeds. In fact, it would behoove us to follow his example. Scripture also tells us that "As we have the Opportunity, let us do good unto ALL". I wonder how many opportunities we have **thrown away**.

Uncle Ed was born a child of this great Mother Earth....a proud neshnabé Nene. He was proud of his Bodéwadmi heritage. I'm pretty sure he'd wish for all of us to be proud of who we are, our ancestors and what we come from. Spread your wings for all to see, let the spirit set you free.

There is much we can learn from his example. And for you Uncle Ed, I hope it is true: **I ye I égtegéyen, I yé I égish, ga gish igéyen. Gdbanayék Uncle Ed, Bama pi mine.**

Let us pray

Thank you Lord for the opportunity to have known Uncle Ed. May we learn from his example of kindness and lightheartedness. And my we always keep a piece of him tucked away in our memories. May the Lord Bless and Keep youAMEN.

Jim's Song