

Mikuła, John

December 31, 2019



John Mikuła

John Mikuła, age 93, passed away peacefully on Sunday, December 22nd, 2019 at Providence Place in Moose Jaw. He was predeceased by his brother Aleksander, and two sisters, Genia and Natalie. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Maria (Minnie) and children Randy (Jennifer) Mikuła, Sandra (Gerry) Duggleby, and Shelley (Greg) Mikuła. He will be dearly missed by all including his nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Dad was born in Haczyska Poland on November 14th, 1926. Life on the farm with his mom, dad, 2 sisters, and brother was very happy. One of his best memories of life in Poland was food, especially when his mom baked bread in the brick bake oven which was eaten with fresh buttermilk. Dad often told us how the food on the farm was so good he could still taste it, and how he thought they were the most fortunate people in the world.

When he was 9 years old, Dad was given a prophecy by one of the ladies in the village who said that his wife was somewhere out in the world, still in a crib, and that he would go out into the world and be rich. Dad always said that he was the richest man

in the world, and that you don't have to have a lot of money to be rich – Faith in God and in yourself, and having a good outlook and attitude in your life is all you need to be rich. Rich is the peace, love, and joy that only God can give. Dad's positive attitude, love of life, love of food, and his faith in God touched everyone who met him. Dad thought he led an interesting life and that penchant for understatement was part of his sense of humour.

On July 7th, 1942, the Gestapo came to the house on the farm looking for Dad's older sister to take to Germany. Dad jumped at the chance for adventure and offered to go in her place. They agreed – he was just 14 years old and barefoot when he was loaded into railway box cars headed for Germany. Little did he know what was ahead of him. The prophecy was about to begin to come true, and Dad would need every ounce of Faith to carry him through.

Dad spent the rest of WWII in forced labour on a farm in Germany, where he suffered from beatings and lack of food. He constantly dreamed of one day having enough bread to eat, and always had faith that things would get better.

Just before the war with Germany ended, Dad was liberated by the Americans – Dad was a free man at last! He prayed, thanking God for saving him through the war. On June 22nd, 1945 he joined the American army, where he was posted for guard duty of the German SS prisoners of war in Dachau, Germany. There were 45,000 SS prisoners in the hospital, which was heavily guarded with barbed wire and manned with machine guns. Dad saw the Dachau death camps and was responsible for guarding some of the monsters who ran them. After his service in the Army, Dad had some choices about where to go, and Christmas 1948 was Dad's last Christmas in the American army before emigrating to Canada in May 1949. Dad spent his early days in Canada working on a farm in Dahlen Saskatchewan, and logging in Ontario before settling in Moose Jaw where the rest of the prophecy was about to be fulfilled. On October 11th, 1952, Dad met the love of his life, Minnie, at a dance at Temple Gardens. Dad loved to tell us the story of how they met – he and his friend Anton noticed two girls sitting by themselves. They looked so innocent, and Dad and Anton asked if they could join them. Dad liked Minnie at first sight. She was bubbly and lots of fun! Their love story continued and on

July 11th, 1953, Dad and Mom got married. Their love story is an inspiration to everyone who knew them, and they were blessed to celebrate 66 years of marriage this past July.

Dad worked as a Carman at the CPR until he was 59 years old. He loved going to work every day, and made many lifelong friends there. He always said that if you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life

Dad would say that what made him the richest man in the world, were his 3 children and the subsequent blessings of 9 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. He called us a blessing from God, and he always reminded us to *Love One Another*. Dad was an accomplished carpenter, and all our homes are filled with beautiful furniture for our houses which is a reminder of a wonderful man. Perhaps his greatest moments as a carpenter were the 2 houses he built from scratch, one at 330 Grandview Street West, and the second right next door at 338 Grandview Street West, where Dad and Mom lived until just a few years ago.

Dad's next great love was hunting and fishing with his friends known as his fishing buddies. Many entertaining stories came from those trips, as well as plenty of meat and fish that the whole family enjoyed. Dad's passion for good food lasted his lifetime. When his Mom passed away in Poland, he built a brick oven in our backyard as a memorial to her. He often said he could still smell the aroma of his Mom's homemade bread every now and again. We were lucky to be treated to Dad's homemade bread, baked just like in Poland, as well as his homemade deer sausage, smoked in his hand made smokehouse that he designed into the bake oven.

Dad's passion for gardening also meant we had fresh vegetables every summer, and frozen and canned ones from the garden all year round. Dad's favourites were his swiss chard and of course cabbage and potatoes. Every grandchild remembers summers in his garden, pulling out fresh, sweet carrots to be eaten on the spot. No carrot will ever taste so good.

Dad had a positive attitude and love of life that meant every moment should be celebrated. The smallest things would often be celebrated, even a simple meal. Dad would say, "This calls for a shot of scotch!" Every birth, baptism, new house, and almost

every meal was celebrated with scotch. We thank you Dad for always reminding us that all moments in life are to be celebrated, and that forgiveness, faith, and love are part of each and every day.

Dad will be greatly missed by his wife Minnie; his 3 children Randy, Sandra, and Shelley and their spouses; his 9 grandchildren Sarah, Andy, Kelly, Scott, Paul, Tim, Lucy, Nataysia and Ameia; and his 3 great grandchildren Ailsa, Francis and Elliott. We will leave you with Dad's words: *My father often quoted Jesus' command to us children and I pass it on to you: Love One Another*

Keep smiling, Love One Another, and Count Your Blessings.

We love you Dad,
Randy, Sandra and Shelley

Special thanks to the entire staff at Providence Place, (especially St. Anthony's wing) for their loving care and support.

The Funeral Service will be held on Friday, January 10th, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. in St. Aidan Anglican Church, 124 1st Ave NE, Moose Jaw, SK. Father Dean Pinter will officiate, assisted by Reverend Deacon Arleen Champion, and interment will take place at Rosedale Cemetery. Flowers are gratefully declined. As an expression of sympathy, donations in John's name may be made to St. Aidan Anglican Church, 124 1st Ave NE, Moose Jaw, SK S6H 0Y8. Arrangements are entrusted to Moose Jaw Funeral Home, 268 Mulberry Lane. Todd Sjoberg, Funeral Director 306-693-4550.

1.



Debbie Firth on December 31, 2019 at 3:14 pm

I didn't know your father or your family but I read his obituary and just wanted to let you know how inspirational it was.

I've never done anything like this before but it just

touched my heart.

God bless him and your family.

[Reply](#)

2.



C.D. on January 1, 2020 at 10:17 am

Randy, Sandra and Shelley...I send my heartfelt condolences to you and your families during this difficult time. Your father is missed deeply. His smile, humor and gentle nature were unmeasurable. Seeing him and your mom together, their love for one another was evident every day, even on the tough ones. I hope all the lessons he taught, the faith and love he shared and all the amazing memories of such an amazing man will help bring you all peace in the time to come.

[Reply](#)

3.



Carrol Morkin on January 1, 2020 at 10:56 am

So sorry for your loss. Your parents were very good friends with my parents Lawrence & Phyllis Craig. Our Dads worked together on the CPR. Your Dad was good man with a strong faith and loved his family dearly. We should all live our lives as John did.

Love one another.

Carrol Morkin (Craig)

[Reply](#)

4.



Sharon Snell (Quirk) on January 2, 2020 at 6:27 pm

My family lived straight across the alley from John and Minnie in Moose Jaw. I was so touched by the obituary written for your Dad. We never knew what he lived through in his lifetime. I remember him and Minnie always smiling at the kids as we ran all over the neighbourhood. One day in Spring I was coming home from Schick's and ran right through their garden area which was very muddy and not yet planted. My boots became stuck so I jumped out of them and ran home. A short while later, your Dad showed up at our door delivering my boots. He had the biggest smile on his face. I remember their abundant garden and lovely flowers. You are fortunate to have had such wonderful parents with such a positive attitude.

[Reply](#)

5.



John Trodd on January 3, 2020 at 12:31 am

I was fortunate enough to have worked with John for a brief time at the railroad. He also came to my house several times to show me easy ways to do difficult tasks. I was a new home owner and he took the time to help me. He was a person I admired very much...

[Reply](#)

6.



Cheryl Bastedo and Jim Boyle on January 3, 2020 at 9:17 pm

We had the privilege of spending several summers in the little house next to John and Minnie in the 90s, they were wonderful neighbours and his perspective after all he went through was amazing. Your love and respect for your father reflects his for you.

[Reply](#)

7.



Patricia Munroe (Heshka) on January 5, 2020 at 9:48 am

I will always cherish the memories of times spent with you all. Uncle John was a very special man that had a way of making everyone feel like they were special. He was never to busy or tired to help you out or to sit and enjoy a visit(with a shit of scotch). I still miss his amazing deer sausage and Auntie Minnie's dills. I'm so sorry to hear this sad news and my love goes out to you all.

[Reply](#)

8.



James P Sikorski on January 7, 2020 at 10:57 am

I James Sikorski want to offer my sincere condolence to John's family and his friends. John and I enjoyed many fine times talking together about different subjects and

thinks. He shaped many saw blades for me. Also I personally enjoyed his home made sausage. I personally am liking forward in the coming day's when our love ones will be resurrected back to life again, as mentioned in Act 24:15.

[Reply](#)

9.



David Maydanich on January 9, 2020 at 2:04 pm

Our deepest condolences to all of John's family. John was a close friend to my father Frank. I knew John for many years and I can honestly say that never once did I see him without a smile on his face. He had the most positive outlook of anyone I new. A lot of good times were spent hunting and fishing with his buddies. I was fortunate enough to be a part of it a few times. He will be missed by many. From the Frank Maydanich family may God bless you all.

[Reply](#)

10.



Linda (Tournat) Fisher on January 14, 2020 at 8:23 pm

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Mikula family at this difficult time. I met John and Minnie and family through the Heshka's. I use to play with the Heshka kids when I was a little girl. And that also included playing with Randy and Sandra. We lived next door to John and Fern on Maple street. You wrote a lovely tribute to your dad.

I'm sure he was very proud of you!

Linda (Tournat)Fisher Vernon, BC

[Reply](#)