



Ernest Donald MacKay

December 6, 1939 - March 25, 2024

We, the family of Ernie MacKay, are deeply saddened to announce his passing on March 25, 2024 surrounded by family. Ernest Donald MacKay was born on December 6, 1939, and was raised in New Waterford. He was a proud Cape Bretoner. He joined the Royal Canadian Navy at the age of 16 years and served his country for many years.

Ernie was a devoted husband to his wife, Marina, for 31 years. He is survived and cherished by his daughter, Linda, and son, Steve. He was an extraordinary stepdad to Corry (John), Dione (Rob) and Jaime (Neil).

He was a kind and loving Grand-pa to Tara (Paul), Michael (Lena), Alexandra, Jared, Elle, Sam, Max, Nate, Mackenzie, and Baileigh and great-grandfather to sweet Oliver. He had many cherished nieces, nephews, and cousins spanning from Nova Scotia to British Columbia.

He was predeceased by his father George MacKay and his mother Margaret (Burns); his sister, Peggy; his brother Dave, as well as his brother George "Red" MacKay and sister-in-law, Janet. As the baby of the family, he had so many good memories with his siblings including his last epic trip to visit his brother Red, in BC.

He lost a daughter, Margaret Ann, in infancy. His beloved son, Little Ernie

“David” MacKay passed away on Aug 3, 1992. In that same year, “Tears in Heaven” was released and when he heard it, he would talk of reuniting with his son.

Ernie was predeceased by his brother-in-laws, Glenn Milley, and Joey Milley, who he could always depend on for a good catch of fish. His loving sister-in-law Joanne passed earlier this year. His mother-in-law, Mary Ellen Milley, adored him and would slip him some sweets when Marina wasn't looking.

His sisters/brothers-in-law held him in high regard. He was fortunate to have Catherine MacKay, Ron Beaton, Linda & Ron McKinnon, Florence Milley & Isabelle MacDonald, Jeanette Milley, Laurie Milley & Dave Thomson, Freddie & Mary Milley, Steve & Tina Milley, Weldon & Bev Milley, and Darlene Milley, in his life.

He was with Ford Motor Company for over 30 years, working first in Bramalea, ON then Edmonton, AB, where he retired. Prior to working in the automotive industry, he worked in a variety of jobs, from coal-mining at #12 Colliery to driving a bread-truck. Ernie was a passionate Union supporter and served as a local CAW President for many years.

Through the years, he volunteered for many service organizations like the Lion's Club and was an avid fundraiser for his son, Steve's hockey team, the Bramalea Blues. After retirement, he volunteered for the NDP in Cape Breton and when he moved to Halifax he worked at the Dockyards for the Corps of Commissionaires and supported Veterans as a Service Officer at the Royal Canadian Legion.

He believed in Al-Anon and earned his substance and alcohol abuse counselling certification through the University of Alberta. He used his knowledge and life experience to help many colleagues and others through

tough times.

He was a true gentleman, with a soft heart - he didn't hesitate to share a laugh or a good cry with anyone. He will be most remembered for his quiet wisdom, and most of all his dedication to his wife, Marina, and his children. His biggest joy was to see his children, grandchildren and great-grandson happy. He took every chance he had to praise and give love, and left nothing unsaid.

We will be forever grateful for him even if we wanted him around for even longer. His spirit and love will always surround us.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Ernie at the Royal Canadian Legion, Vimy Branch 27 on Saturday, April 30, 5-7pm.

"Beyond the door
There's peace, I'm sure
And I know there'll be no more
Tears in heaven"

Tribute Wall

FM

“ Rest in peace dear Ernie. The Milleys were blessed to have you become a part of our family. We will be forever grateful to you for all you gave to, and did for, Marina and the girls as well as for what your gentle nature, kindness and love contributed to the fabric of our family. We will miss you and will always remember you with happiness and wonderful memories.

*With all our love,
Florence & Isabel*

Florence Milley - April 01, 2024 at 08:32 AM

FM

“ Rest in Peace dear Ernie. The Milleys were blessed to have you become a part of our family. We will be forever grateful to you for all you have done over the years for Marina and the girls and treasure everything you contributed to the fabric of our family. We will think of you often and always with happiness and wonderful memories.

*With love,
Florence & Isabel*

Florence Milley/Isabel MacDonald - March 31, 2024 at 05:29 PM

PD

“ Marina, Corry, Dionne, Jaime and families,

Thinking about you all as you gathered to say goodbye to Ernie. We know how much you all loved him. A great guy. Our sincere condolences. Cat and Micker

Pat Desveaux - March 31, 2024 at 04:20 PM

PM

“ Dear Flo , Isabel and your family,
I was so sorry to hear about Ernie's death. In
the past few months there has been a lot of
loss in your life. Please know I am thinking of
you and all your family.
In Sympathy
Pauline MacGillivray



Pauline MacGillivray - March 29, 2024 at 07:45 PM

SM

“ Dear Flo and all your family,
Once again your family is being affected by
the death of someone you love. We are very
aware that Ernie's death is hard on you. So as
you gather with your family we hope that you
will feel the support of your family and of your friends who are with
you in spirit. As you celebrate Ernie's life and mourn his loss feel
comforted by your faith.
In Sympathy
Marguerite
And Catherine Ann



Sr Catherine and Marguerite - March 29, 2024 at 03:34 PM

JC

“ Our deepest condolences go out to Linda and Steven, Michael and
Lena and Tara and Paul and Marina and daughters and all your
family out East.

We share many fond memories and times together when he lived in
Ontario. God bless and help you thru this very difficult loss and time.
Joe and Josie Canning and family in Ontario

Josie Canning - March 29, 2024 at 11:42 AM

JD

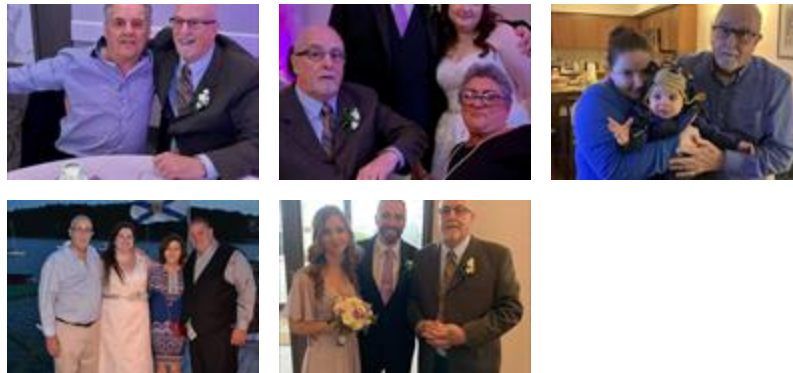
DEAR STEVE LINDA LOU MARINA AND FAMILY; OUR FAMILY ALWAYS THOUGHT OF YOUR DAD AS OUR UNCLE ERNIE❤️ and always will. We shared really good memories together. We all feel the loss even tho time has passed since our connection. Love to all!!Judy Drover

Judy Drover - March 29, 2024 at 09:02 PM

JN

“ Note: Ernie’s celebration of life is being held on Mar 30 (Apr 30 as I indicated in error within his obit) at the RCL Vimy Branch 27 at Kempt Road in Halifax from 5-7pm.

I count myself to be one of the luckiest people on the face of the earth to have had such a wonderful man for my stepdad. Rest in Peace sweet Ernie ❤️



Jaime Nolan - March 28, 2024 at 10:45 PM

AM

“ Our deepest sympathy to you Marina and your family. Phonse and Agnes Martell

agnes martell - March 28, 2024 at 07:43 PM

MM

“ Dear Marina and Girls, My deepest sympathy to all of you over the years I had many conversations with Ernie and always was pleasant and knowledgeable. I know he suffered these last few years and never a word of complaint. Marina you were so good to him and you can be sure he has no more pain. You are in my thoughts and prayers during these difficult times. God bless, Mary

marymacmillan macmillan - March 28, 2024 at 03:37 PM

JD

Dear LindaLou Steve Marina and family. We always considered Your dad as our Uncle Ernie❤️ and feel his loss as well even tho many years have passed since and our lives have taken different paths and there hasn't been much connection but all said we have many fond memories ! We are certainly thinking of you all!! 🙏❤️

Judy Drover - March 29, 2024 at 10:00 PM

BG

“ Dear Marina and family ,
We were so sorry to hear of Ernie's passing.
Please know our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this difficult time . Hugs to all .
Bonnie and Glen Gillan

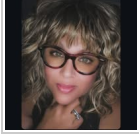
Bonnie Gillan - March 28, 2024 at 03:17 PM

MD

“ Marlene Drover purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Ernest Donald MacKay.



Marlene Drover - March 28, 2024 at 02:00 PM



“ *The MacKay family has been interwoven with the fabric of our family (the MacLeans) for 3 generations. I'm deeply saddened with the news of their loss, share countless fond memories, and offer my deepest sympathy during this time of grief. ❤️*

Alecia Grant - March 28, 2024 at 01:36 PM

JN

Alecia, please let your family know that the bouquet you sent was gorgeous. We proudly displayed it at Ernie's service at the Legion along with his pictures and mementos. Thank you so much for this beautiful gesture!

Jaime Elizabeth Nolan - April 02, 2024 at 05:45 PM

RS

“ *Robin, Alecia, and Scott planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ernest Donald MacKay.*

Robin, Alecia, and Scott - March 28, 2024 at 01:32 PM

RS

“ *Robin, Alecia, and Scott purchased the Beautiful i n Blue for the family of Ernest Donald MacKay.*



Robin, Alecia, and Scott - March 28, 2024 at 01:32 PM

SR

“ *My deepest condolences to Linda, Steve and all the family for this huge loss. I haven't seen him in years but I do recall he gave the best hugs! May he now rest in peace. Sending hugs ❤️*

Sandra Romano - March 28, 2024 at 01:09 PM

DM

“ *Ernie was so loved by everyone who knew him we shared lots of laughs and tears over the years. He will be so missed RIP Ernie* ❤️

Darlene Milley - March 28, 2024 at 10:31 AM

CM

uncle ernie was always nice to us as children and was a softy. He could cry very easy, he had a big heart. RPI

Catherine Matlock - March 29, 2024 at 10:54 AM