

VICTOR "VIC" JOHN HUMENIUK

b. 6 August 1919, Carp, MN

d. 30 April 2012, Monterey, TN

Buried: Elm Park Cemetery, Baudette, Lake of the Woods Co., MN

Wives: Lillian Elaine (Bannon) Humeniuk md 1941

b. 14 May 1922, Brooks, Alberta, Canada

Nancy (unknown) Humeniuk md 1985

Father: George Humeniuk

b. 2 September 1889, Tereblecea, Bukowina, Austria/Hungary

d. 10 January 1969, Baudette, Lake of the Woods Co., MN

Mother: Helen Kattin Rzasa/Raza

b. 8 May 1894, Dynow, Galacia, Austri/Hungary

d. 8 February 1978, Lake of the Woods Co., MN

CROSSVILLE

A life of celebration gathering for Victor "Vic" Humeniuk, 92, of Monterey, will be held Friday at 3 p.m. from the Full Gospel Assembly. Mr. Humeniuk passed away April 30, 2012, at Standing Stone Care and Rehabilitation Center.



Mr. Humeniuk was born Aug. 6, 1919, in Carp, MN, to the late George and Helen Raza Humeniuk.

Mr. Humeniuk had worked for the United States Postal Service as postmaster. He was in the United States Army and had served during the World War II era. He was a member of the VFW Post 6277. He was a member of the Veterans Honor Guard and had

served on 1,700 funerals. He had worked with the Boy Scouts of America and had started the troop in Monterey that had not existed in 20 years. He was a member of the Lions Club.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy Humeniuk of Monterey; daughters and sons-in-law, Beu'lah Mary and Zar Omar of Henderson, Kaye McDonald of Bemidji, MN, and Holly Humeniuk and Larry Overbeek of Bemidji, MN; sons and daughters-in-law, James O. and Jean Humeniuk of Bemidji, MN, John C. and Judy Humeniuk of Baudette, MN, and Steven M. and Peggy Humeniuk of Bemidji, MN; 14 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and several great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers, Chester and Frank Humeniuk; son, Edward Humeniuk; and two infant children.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to the Veterans Honor Guard Post #6277, c/o Tom Serwan, 370 S. Lowe Ave., Cookeville, TN 38501, or the charity of choice.

A guest register may be signed at www.gofffuneralhome.com.

Goff Funeral Home of Monterey is in charge of the arrangements.

*Graveside services for Vic Humeniuk, formerly of Baudette, MN, will be held on Saturday, May 19th at 2 PM at Elm Park Cemetery. He passed away in Monterey, TN at the age of 92. Military Honors by the Baudette Veterans Ceremonial Squad.

IT'S VIC'S TURN

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville TN;
Thursday, 3 May 2012, front page
By Amy Davis, Herald-Citizen Staff

After Serving at more than 1,700 veterans' funerals, Humeniuk to be remembered Friday:

MONTEREY - He paid his respects as more than 1,700 Upper Cumberland area veterans were laid to rest.



Now it's Victor Humeniuk's turn to be honored.

(Pictured: Vic Humeniuk, second from right, attended 1,704 funerals with the Veterans Honor Guard. Other honor guard members from this May 2010 photos are, from left, Gene Beyer, Greg Nead, Al Williams, Rich Goode,

and, after Humeniuk, Roy H. Tudor).

A celebration of life gathering for the 92-year-old World War II veteran, who died Monday, April 30, at Standing Stone Care and Rehabilitation Center, will be Friday at 3 p.m. at Full Gospel Assembly in the Sand Springs community of Monterey.

Humeniuk, born August 6, 1919, in Carp, MN, served his country from May 1944 to August 1945, working in the Army post office in New Guinea. He was a member of Monterey's VFW Post 6277, as well as the Veterans Honor Guard until he retired in August 2011.

His service with the honor guard was one that involved hundreds of hours and thousands of miles, as members of the unit average one to two funerals a day and sometimes more.

All of it volunteer time – and worth every effort.

In his own words from a *Herald-Citizen* article published May 30, 2010, Humeniuk said: “It’s to honor the memory of the deceased veterans. Every one of them played a part in defending the country in World War II or Korea or Vietnam or wherever. They took time out of their lives, either voluntarily or by draft. For me, it was a year and a half, but for some it was years and years.

“I wouldn’t say we’re special, but we’ve done something that deserves some recognition.”

The Veterans Honor Guard was formed in 1996 by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 741 of Cookeville, who soon after were joined by VFW Post 6277 of Monterey and local American Legion posts.

The unit currently has 13 members, who arrive 45 minutes before each funeral to stand as casket guards through the service. Grave site duties include presenting an American flag to the next of kin, firing three rifle volleys and playing Taps. They also present a “dog tag” embossed with the veteran’s name to the family.

Tom Serwan, adjunct quarter master with the Honor Guard – the position Humeniuk held before retiring last year – said the unit averages around 20 funerals per month and 200 per year. This past March they accumulated 4,300 miles and, in April, around 3,000.

Kenny Walker, funeral director at Goff Funeral Home (who is in charge of Humeniuk’s arrangements), had seen a lot of Humeniuk and other honor guard members through the years.

“If we have a military service, and the deceased was a veteran, we always call the honor guard if needed and have them come in and do the flag folding and presentation and things of that nature,” Walker said.

Honor guard commander Al Williams spoke highly of Humeniuk’s service.

“It meant an awful lot to him,” he said. “He was dedicated, I’ll tell you.”

Humeniuk was a member of the honor guard since its beginning in 1996. Before that, he had served with an honor guard in Minnesota. He was also a postmaster with the U. S. Postal Service.

He and his wife, Nancy, moved to Monterey in 1991.

“We couldn’t have found a better place to live,” she said. “We just fell in love with this area.”

She recalled her husband’s strong dedication to the honor guard.

“He loved it,” she said. “We had to change our plans a lot of times because he’d get called for a funeral, but he just loved doing it. He went to all of them that he could.”

And that’s not all.

“When we first moved here, he joined the lions Club, and he loved those times when they tested school children’s eyesight,” Nancy said. “He also worked with the Boy Scouts in Monterey and helped them start a troop that hadn’t existed for 20 years.”

She said her husband also had a passion for writing to prisoners.

“He never forgot any of their birthdays,” Nancy said. “He always sent them a card.”

In addition to Nancy, his wife of 37 years, Humeniuk leaves behind three daughters, three sons, 14 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

As for Friday’s celebration of life gathering to honor him, Nancy said, “He didn’t want anyone to mourn. He told me, ‘I’ve had 92 good years, and people should be happy I was able to live that long and enjoy life.’ So that’s what we’re trying to do.”

For their services, Veterans Honor Guard members rely on donations from funeral home, grants, family members of the deceased, honor guard members themselves and anyone else wishing to contribute.

Memorial donations for Humeniuk may be made to the Veterans Honor Guard Post 6277, in care of Tom Serwan, 370, S. Lowe Avenue, Cookeville, 38501, or to a donation of choice.

*See pictures of the Veteran Honor Guard and stories at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>