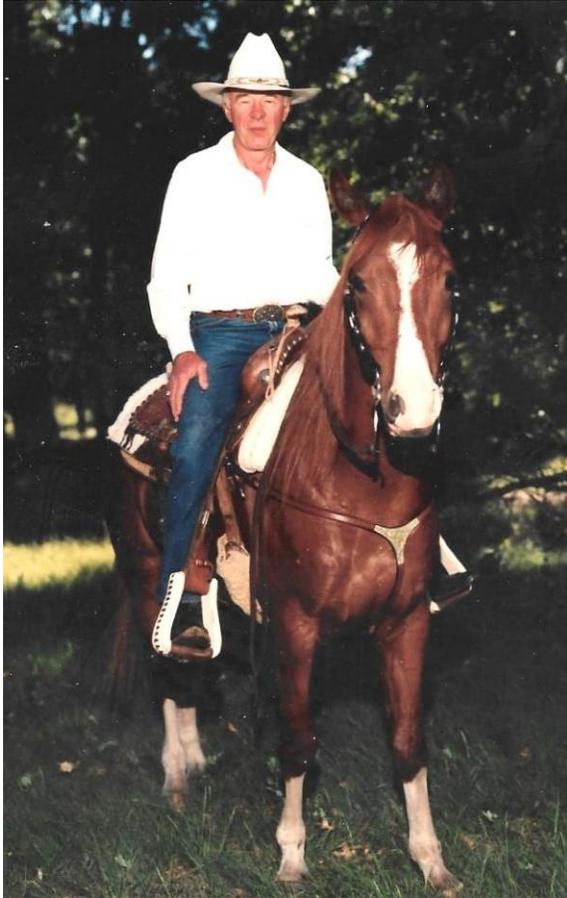


“Dancing Fred”



Fred Breiling (1926-2020)

Fred Breiling, 93, of Chesterfield, MI passed away on October 20, 2020. A proud Navy veteran of World War II, Fred earned the Victory Medal for his service aboard the USS Menifee in the Pacific theater. Growing up on the family farm on Sugarbush Rd in Harrison Township, he developed a lifelong love of horses. An accomplished horseman, Fred owned, rode and trained many horses. He was a “singing cowboy” at Jack and Jill Ranch. He won trophies riding with the Macomb County Sheriff’s Posse and Old West Days parades in Arizona, and ribbons in amateur rodeo events. After retiring from the Ford Van Dyke plant, Fred travelled the USA with his truck, horses and trailer, visiting a network of friends and family on the way from his Chesterfield Square condo to his Desert Sun condo in Apache Junction AZ.

Fred enjoyed riding cross country with the Michigan Trail Riders Association and made many friends on the trail. He showed everyone who visited his pictures of trail rides and campsite meals including a special “formal” candlelight dinner in tuxedo t-shirts. Once on the drive to the trail head, Fred had an awful scare when his trailer hitch came loose

at 55 mph and the trailer rolled, landing upside down. He opened the trailer door expecting the worst only to find his horse standing with a gash on his head but no bones broken. The vet sewed up the wound, the horse got back in the trailer and away they went. Fred also rode the rugged Superstition Mountain trails in Arizona until he was in his eighties. A borrowed horse gave him a hard time, bolting and running for the busy highway, scraping Fred against cactus. When 1 rein broke, Fred pulled the horse into a tight circle at a full gallop until it finally ran out of energy. He gave up riding soon after because he hadn't broken any bones in 8 decades but figured he'd be pressing his luck to get on a horse in his nineties. Fred liked going to musical performances of all kinds and was nicknamed "Dancin' Fred" for his popularity with dance partners. He loved getting together with cousins and friends for family meals, parties and Wednesday morning breakfasts.

Fred was predeceased by his parents Frank Breiling and Anna (Schwartz) Breiling, his older brother Frank Breiling, younger sister Margaret (Breiling) Snowhook and their spouses. Survivors include niece Katherine Snowhook Crognale and her husband Michael, nephew William Snowhook IV and his wife Marilyn, niece Lynn Keller, their families and many cousins. Fred's ashes were interred in his father's grave at Clinton Grove Cemetery, Clinton Township, MI. Memorial services and graveside military honors will be planned for a later date.

The family would like to express our deepest gratitude to the staff and residents of the Village of East Harbor for their friendship and many kindnesses, especially Denise, Lynette, Peggy, Toni, and the aids who took such good care of Fred and danced with him during his last week. For those wishing to contribute in Fred's memory, we suggest donating to the Village of East Harbor, 33875 Kiely Drive, Chesterfield MI 48047 by mail, 248-281-2040 by phone, or online at <https://pvmfoundation.org/EastHarbor/>, the Disabled American Veterans or the Michigan Humane Society .