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Family marking first birthday without beloved counselor

By DANIELLE QUISENBERRY
Times Herald

Called passionate and convicted, Ralph Ceglarek would have turned 59 in February.

Instead, his family and friends are lauding his life and coping with his death.

Ceglarek of Marysville, founder of Eastern Michigan Counseling Associates in Marysville, died Nov. 29 in Marwood Nursing and Rehab in Port Huron after a series of strokes in the past several years.

"He had an incredible passion for life and anything he did," said



Ralph Ceglarek

A Life Remembered

Gerald Kirzner of Southfield, a clinical psychologist in Farmington Hills who worked with Ceglarek at Eastern Michigan Counseling. "He provided quality service for his patients and his country."

Ceglarek served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War and was a proud veteran who formed a bond with his nephew, a Navy officer soon to leave for Egypt, said his brother, Ron Ceglarek of Kimball Township.

After the war, Ralph Ceglarek — married to Nancy Ceglarek for

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nearly 37 years — worked for Grand Trunk Railroad before earning his bachelor's degree in addition studies from Mercy College in Detroit in 1985.

He then earned a master's degree from Wayne State University in Detroit in 1987 and founded Eastern Michigan Counseling in 1992. Eastern Michigan Counseling was sold after Ceglarek's first stroke about five years ago, his brother said.

While a counselor, he wrote a column, *Therapist Perspective*,

for the *Times Herald* and served as an adjunct professor for St. Clair County Community College in Port Huron.

Ron Ceglarek said his brother was a man with strong convictions. "He never wavered from a decision he ever made in his life," he said. "He stuck to his convictions whether you agreed with him or not."

Ralph Ceglarek worked especially well with patients with addictions, Kirzner said.

"He pulled no punches. He was able to get into their world and make it better," he said. "It takes someone very astute and compassionate to be able to do that and do it well. He certainly made a difference in many lives."

○ Contact Danielle Quisenberry at (810) 989-6274 or dquisenberry@gannett.com.