

News-Sentinel, The (Fort Wayne, IN) - Monday, May 24, 2004

FRANCIS H. "SMOKE" BENTZ, 77, of Decatur, died Saturday, May 22, 2004, 7:10 p.m., at Select Specialty Hospital, in Fort Wayne. Born Nov. 14, 1926, in Adams County, he was the son of Frank and Mary (Geimer) Bentz. He retired from Dana Corp., Fort Wayne, in 1983, after 33 years of service, and was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He was a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church, the Holy Name Society, Knights of Columbus, American Legion Post 43, VFW and the Eagles Lodge of Decatur. He married Arlene R. (Dersch) Bentz, Sept. 26, 1953. Surviving in addition to his wife of Decatur, are three sons, Dennis L. Bentz, Tony Bentz, Alan A. Bentz, all of Decatur; three daughters, Mrs. Dennis (Deborah A.) Covington of Dillsboro, Mrs. Todd (Jayne M.) Swygart of Decatur, Mrs. Stephen (Amy S.) Buuck of Fort Wayne; three sisters, Estella Tester, Dolores Harshman and Marcile Coyne, all of Decatur; and nine grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two sons, Richard and Robert Bent (who died at infancy), a granddaughter, Natasha Bentz; four brothers; and three sisters. Mass of Christian Burial is 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Mary Assumption Catholic Church, Decatur, with Father Philip DeVolder officiating. Prayer Service is 9:20 a.m. at Haggard and Sefton Funeral Home, Decatur. Visitation is from 2 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home, with a Rosary service at 4 p.m. Burial with graveside rites by American Legion Post 43, Decatur, at St. Joseph Catholic Church Cemetery. Memorials to St. Mary Improvement Fund or the Adams County Community Foundation Angel Fund (Lung Cancer.) To sign the guest book, visit www.haggardandsefton.com

Contributed by Jane Edson