

Decatur Daily Democrat (IN) - Monday, October 12, 2009

Gerald Verlin Smith, 86, of Monroeville, passed away on Friday, October 9, 2009, at his residence.

He was born on October 17, 1922, in Bluffton, Indiana, to Maynard and Mary Jane (Lash) Smith.

He married Ruth L. Hess 62 years ago on May 10, 1947; she survives in Monroeville.

He is survived by two sons, Gary (Janet) Smith of Decatur and Dean (Julia) Smith of Monroeville; three daughters, Shirley (Ray) Scott of Hoagland, Diane (Larry) Irwin of Decatur, and Julie (Ron) Becher of Berne; nine grandchildren, Jamie Horne of Fort Wayne; Eric (Stacey) Smith of Monroe; Landon Smith and Nick (Lindsey) Irwin of Decatur; Ryan (Holly) Becher and Cole (Cassie) Becher of Berne; Josh (Kary) Smith of New Haven; and Alisa Irwin and Melissa (Thomas) McCullough of Decatur; nine greatgrandchildren, Paige Horne; R. J. and Ian Smith; and Corbin, Ivy, Talon, Duncan, Jackson, and Mavrick Becher.

Baby Smith and Baby McCullough are due in 2009. He was also a "grandfather" to Marcus Miller of Decatur.

Other survivors are two half-brothers, William (Marge) Simon of Berne and Tom E. (Velma) Smith of Frankfort, Indiana; a sister-in-law, Rosanna Simon of Berne; and a brother-in-law, Robert Evans of Forest, Indiana.

He was preceded in death by Matthew Miller (who was like a grandson to him) on August 12, 2009; a brother, Harold Smith; a sister, Mabeline Moser; a half-brother, Roger Simon; a half-sister, Judy Evans; two stepbrothers, Victor and James Simon; and two stepsisters, Martha Gifford and Leola Sprunger.

Gerald retired in 1987 from B. F. Goodrich after 25 Smith years of service. He then drove truck for 15 years for R. J. Becher and Sons in Berne, owned by his son-in-law, Ron Becher.

Gerald was a proud World War II veteran, having served in the South Pacific in the Palau Islands.

Two years ago, his family took him to the WW II Monument in Washington D. C., where people stood in line to shake his hand, take pictures, and thank him for his service.

He loved his family above all else and always loved and cared for animals, especially horses, goats, dogs, and cats. He was always emphatic that in place of flowers he wanted bags of dog food around his casket.

Visitation is 2-8 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, at Haggard and Sefton Funeral Home, Decatur.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, October 14, 2009, at Haggard and Sefton Funeral Home, with Rev Ralph Klinker officiating.

Burial will take place in the Decatur Cemetery, with military graveside rites by American Legion Post 43 of Decatur.

Memorials may be made to the Monroeville Emergency Medical Service unit or to the Allen County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.