

Decatur Daily Democrat, Adams Co, IN; 7 September 2004

Wilbert G. Steele, 89 years old of Decatur, Indiana, passed away on Sunday, September 5, 2004 in Adams County Memorial Hospital, Decatur.

He was born on June 22, 1915 in Van Wert County, Ohio the son of the late Edwin Steele and the late Bertha Krueckeberg. He married his first wife, Helen (Lehrman) Steele, on September 7, 1940 in Striker, Ohio. She died on May 5, 1991. He married his second wife, Anita M. Koenemann, on January 1, 1995 in Decatur, Indiana.

Wilbert was a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Decatur, where he held several offices and was Trustee during the building of the new church in 1968. He was a member of the General Electric Quarter Century Club, the Adams County Historical Society, the Lutheran Laymans League and a former member of the Adams County Coin Club. Wilbert was also active in the Zion Lutheran Church Adult Choir.

He was retired on July 1, 1980 from General Electric, Decatur with 37 1/2 years of service. He was previously employed by Wayne Novelty for six years. Surviving are his wife, Anita M. Steele of Decatur, Indiana, daughter, Mrs. Paul (Carolyn) Bosse of Plant City, Florida, daughter, Mrs. Mark (Sandra) Freudenberg of Decatur, Indiana, son, Jerrold (Linda) Steele of Indianapolis, Indiana, brother, Alton Steele of New Haven, Indiana, brother, Lorenz Steele of Ohio City, Ohio, sister, Emma Etzler of Convoy, Ohio, sister, Mrs. Marvin (Lucile) Stoppenhagen of Ossian, Indiana, step-son, Michael (Anita) Miller of Decatur, Indiana, step-daughter, Mrs. John (Diane) McClain of Decatur, Indiana, step-daughter, Mrs. Scott (Nola) Zimmerman of Richmond, Indiana, three grandchildren, Brian & Jennifer Bosse and Luke Freudenberg, two great-grandchildren, David & Carrie Bosse, six step-grandchildren, Tanya Crosswell, Paul & Corbin Miller, Toby Reef, and Riley & Russell Zimmerman, and one step great-grandchild, Kaitlynn Crosswell. Wilbert was preceded in death by one daughter, Brenda Lou Steele, two brothers, Herman Steele and Harry Steele, and one granddaughter, Heidi Rose Freudenberg in infancy.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, September 9, 2004 in Zion Lutheran Church, Decatur with Rev. John Fuchs officiating. Interment will follow in the Decatur Cemetery.

Friends will be received from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., Wednesday, September 8 at the Zwick & Jahn Funeral Homes, Decatur, Indiana and one hour prior to the service at the church on Thursday.

Preferred memorial are to Zion Lutheran Church, Decatur, Worship for Shut-Ins, or the Donor's choice.