

WINCHESTER--Robert E. Simmons, 89, of Winchester, passed away peacefully with his family by his bedside after a brief illness on Sunday, March 18, 2012 at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie.

He was born on March 30, 1922 in Randolph County to Oscar and Emily (Franklin) Simmons.

He was a 1940 graduate of McKinley High School. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II (1942-1945). He was a member of East St. Congregational Christian Church in Winchester, the Sons of American Revolution, the Tri State Gas Engine Tractor Association, the Randolph County Antique Club, the American Legion, and the Jay County Historical Society. Robert retired in 1984 as a pattern maker from OMCO Mould in Winchester; and was also a substitute mail carrier for 12 years.

Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Roberta (Kaufman) Simmons; four children, Maria (Larry) Hiatt of Portland, Jane Simmons (special friend-Tim Allen) of Winchester, William M. (Peggy) Simmons of Winchester, and Douglas (Kathy) Simmons of Winchester; eight grandchildren, Sarah (Mark) Daugherty, Ericah (Shane) Love, Michael (Christianna) Coats, Micah (Layne) Wortman, Moriah (Amy) Simmons, Matthew Simmons, Benjamin (Tia) Simmons, and Andrew Simmons (fiance-Brittany Lever); 14 great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Robert was preceded in death by six sisters, Lela Simmons, Helen Retter, Betty Daly, Ethyl Beck, Imogene Shively and Ruth Clouse; two brothers, Howard and Dallas Simmons.

Funeral services for Robert will be 11 a.m. Thursday, March 22, 2012 at the East St. Congregational Christian Church, 128 N. East St., Winchester, with Pastor Rob Butler officiating and Michael Coats assisting. Burial will follow in Salamonia Cemetery in Salamonia (Jay County), where military rites will be conducted by the Randolph County Honor Guard. Friends and relatives may call from 4-8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21, 2012 at Walker Funeral Home in Winchester and also one hour prior to the service Thursday at the church.

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Contributed by Jane