



Donald Claussen

Wood River | Sunday, December 26 2010

Donald N. Claussen passed away Sunday, December 26th at Alton Memorial Hospital with all of his loving family at his side. He was born to Lawrence and Cleo Claussen in De Valls Bluff, Arkansas on October 27th, 1925. He married Mary Ellen Means on October 20th, 1950 and she survives him. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in October 2010. He is also survived by a sister, Phyllis (Gary) Harvey of Decatur, IL. Don was preceded in death by a brother, Jerry Claussen.

He will be greatly missed by their children Linda (Greg) Durbin of Champaign IL, Karen (Gary) Wilson of Bethalto IL, Mary Ann (Scott) St. John of Golden CO, Steve Claussen of East Alton IL, and Paul (Kim) Claussen of Godfrey IL. He was the proud grandfather of Dave (Cyndi) Durbin, Jeff (Rosita) Durbin, Karrie (Jonathan) Denney, Charlie (Lauren) Rose, Melissa (Mark) Denby, Nicholas St. John, and Benjamin Claussen. His great-grandchildren Kaitlyn, Kameron, and Kaleb Denney and Taylor, Gabriella, and Emry Denby will miss his loving arms and warm smile.

Don proudly served his country in the Army from 1945 to 1947. Together with Mary Ellen, they owned and operated Don's Painting and Decorating from 1958-2001. He was an active member and officer of the Painting and Decorating Contractors of America. Don was a parishioner of Holy Angels Catholic Church of Wood River and belonged to Wood River Moose and VFW organizations and Ducks Unlimited. He was also an "honorary" assistant coach for the CM Eagles girls basketball team.

Don was an avid hunter and fisherman, and devoted local high school sports and St. Louis Cardinals baseball fan. He was a frequent visitor at local coffee shops after his retirement to scout hunting and fishing reports and compare notes on local sporting events. He also enjoyed pinochle and rummy games with his friends. Don Claussen was a saint to all.

Memorials may be made to St. Vincent De Paul Society of Holy Angels Church in Wood River.

Visitation will be from 4-7 PM on Wednesday, December 29th at Paynic Funeral Home in Rosewood Heights with a short prayer service at 4 PM.

A funeral mass will be celebrated at 10 AM at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alton on Thursday, December 30th.

Burial service with military rites by Alton VFW Post #1308 will immediately follow funeral at Rose Lawn Cemetery in Bethalto, IL.