

James DeSherlia

Grafton | Wednesday, January 12 2011

James Harold "Jim" DeSherlia, 84, formerly of Grafton, died at 12:20 p.m., Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at Des Peres Hospital with his family by his side.



He was born May 16, 1926 in Grafton, one of thirteen children born to Charles "Cube" and Catherine (Blaine) DeSherlia. Only five out of the thirteen survived until adulthood. He married Lora May Palmer on May 17, 1947 at the First Baptist Church Parsonage in Jerseyville, and together they shared nearly 59 years together before her death on April 21, 2006. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943 at the age of 17 and served on the light cruiser "The Denver" until November 1-2, 1943, the night it was torpedoed and the next morning attacked by air. He finished out his enlistment on the destroyer "The Montpelier".

He began his career as a chef at the Pere Marquette Lodge in Grafton after his duty in the Navy at the age of 21 and there for 30 years. At that time the lodge was being renovated by the State of Illinois and he moved from Grafton to Jerseyville. It was then, that he & his wife operated the Twilight Inn Tavern in downtown Jerseyville for nine years, until resuming his duties as a chef at the Brass Door Restaraunt in Carrollton for 18 years, where he mad the "all you can eat boneless pork chop night" famous at the restaraunt. He retired in 2004. He was a member of many organizations including the Shriners, Masons, and the Grafton American Legion for over 60 years. He loved bowling each with with his league teams.

He is survived and will be sadly missed by his five children & their spouses, Deborah & James Vonnahmen of Bethalto, James & Joyce DeSherlia of Streator, Pamela & Dennis

Bick of Grafton, Kimberly Patrick, and her fiance' Mike of High Ridge, Mo., and Eric & Bobby Ann DeSherlia of Jerseyville; eleven grandchildren & their spouses, Jason Vonnahmen of Godfrey, Stacey and Joshua Gaither of Fort Bragg, NC., Tara Zimmerman of Hardin, Brian Bick of Hawaii, Michelle Camerer of Elsah, Gena Elliott of East Alton, Becky & Kirby Little of Alton, Christine & Jason Stroede of Belleville, Jamie Sue DeSherlia, and her companion, Eric Hall of Jacksonville, Fl., and Eric DeSherlia & Erin DeSherlia both of Jerseyville; 19 Great Grandchildren; and a sister & brother in law, Dorothy & William Rich of New Iberia, La.; as well as a dear friend, Elke Monroe of Jerseyville. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, an infant daughter, Diana Kay; two sisters, Anna Mae Duncan & Harriet Crisp; and a brother Morse "Cube" DeSherlia.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the Crawford Funeral Home in Jerseyville, where family members will conduct funeral services celebrating his life at 10:30 a.m. Monday.

He will be laid to rest in the Vallhalla Memorial Park in Godfrey with military graveside rites conducted by the Grafton American Legion Post 648.

Memorials may be given to either the Grafton American Legion or the Ladies Auxillary of the Grafton American Legion.