

Manford "Ford" Earl Ruby

Godfrey | Friday, February 8 2013

Manford "Ford" Earl Ruby, 95, died at 5:22 p.m. Friday, February 8 at Blu Fountain Manor with his family by his side under the care of Saint Anthony's Hospice.

He was born on January 11, 1918 in Alsey, IL, son of Bernice (Robertson) and Thomas Ruby. He married the love of his life, Frances Filardo on December 19, 1947. She preceded him in death on February 8, 2012.

Ford enlisted in the Army in 1942, serving as a Corporal with Company H 116th Infantry Regiment in World War II. After graduating from Shurtleff College, he began a first career in education, teaching at Medora High School, East Junior High and other area schools. He received his Master's degree from Washington University before starting his second career as a Safety Director at Laclede Steel for over 20 years, retiring in 1982.

In the 1970's and 1980's, Ford was instrumental in establishing and supporting alcoholic prevention and treatment programs in the area, including Alcoholics Anonymous and Piasa Health Care. He led and attended several meetings a week since May 6, 1970 until last year.

He is survived by a daughter and two sons, Pam Kodros and her husband, Mark Beck of Brighton; Bob Ruby of Wood River and Kevin Ruby and his companion Dawn Robertson of Wood River; six grandchildren and their spouses: Diane and Mike Schuette, John and Kelly Kodros, Thomas and Amanda Kodros, Patrick Ruby, Zac Beck and Cody Beck; 12 great-grandchildren, Ryan Schuette, Megan Schuette, Draven Choat, Alexandra Kodros, Gus Kodros, Jacob Kodros, Lauren Kodros, Claire Kodros, Trisha Frazier, Kristen Ruby, Shane Beck and a dear cousin, Sandy Zamora of Alton.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Ishmael and Dorman.

Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 14 at Elias, Kallal and Schaaf Funeral Home in Alton, where services will be at 10 am on Friday, February 15, with Chaplain Tom Asbury officiating.

Burial will follow at Valhalla Memorial Park in Godfrey with the Alton VFW Post 1308 conducting military graveside rites.

Memorials may be made to Saint Anthony's Foundation or a charity of one's choice.

Online condolences and guest book may be found at www.eliaskallalandschaaf.com