

## COFIELD, Malvin 'Mal'



July 21, 1926 - July 5, 2006

Malvin "Mal" Cofield, 79, Kokomo, died 1 a.m. Wednesday, July 5, 2006, at his home. He was born July 21, 1926, in Rising Sun, the son of Malvin L. and Mildred (Cook) Cofield. He married Kathryn K. Kendrick in Niles, Mich., on Aug. 14, 1971, and she survives.

He was a 1944 graduate of Rising Sun High School. Mal was drafted into the Army Air Corps at the end of high school just as World War II was ending. He served from Jan. 31, 1945, until Dec. 14, 1946, obtaining the rank of staff sergeant. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, Victory Medal and Good Conduct Medal on his tour of duty.

In 1951, he graduated from Taylor University in Upland, where he participated in all sports. He earned his master's degree from Indiana University. In 1992, he was inducted into the Taylor University Athletic Hall of Fame. Mal came to Kokomo in the early '50s and ran the athletic activities at the YMCA until swimming was offered at Kokomo High School. At that time, he began teaching and coaching in the school. Beginning with age group swimmers at the Y, Mal had many successful teams during his coaching career. His 1969 KHS Swim Team became State Champions, and in 1981, his Haworth team placed second in the state. Mal recently received word that he was to be one of the initial inductees into the newly formed Indiana Swimming Hall of Fame.

He was a member of First Presbyterian Church where he served as a Deacon and Elder. He was a member of the Rising Sun Masonic Lodge. Mal enjoyed golf and was an avid deer hunter.

Surviving in addition to his wife, Kathryn, Kokomo; are two daughters, Paige (Cofield) Amsler and her husband, Kevin, Wayzata, Minn., Catha (Cofield) Huff and her husband, Jason, Wilmore, Ky.; one son, M. Scott Cofield and his wife, Jean, Brownsburg; grandchildren, Nathan, Trevor and Morgan Funk, M. Paul, Andrea and Brad Cofield, and Jackson Huff; sister, Thelma C. Adams, Riverview, Fla. His parents and one brother, Terry L. Cofield, preceded him in death.

A memorial service and celebration of Mal's life will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday at First Presbyterian Church, 2000 W. Jefferson St., Kokomo, with Pastor Joyce Harris officiating. Following the memorial service, the family will receive friends in the fellowship hall at the church. There will be private family burial at Albright Cemetery with military honors provided by the Army and the Howard County Military Rites Team. Memorial contributions may be made to Taylor University, 236 W. Reade Ave., Upland, IN 46989-1001, Attn: Clark Stevens.

Mal's athleticism brought him to Taylor University, where he became a Christian. Donations will help establish the Mal Cofield Football Scholarship to help another have a similar experience. Envelopes will be available at the church. Shirley & Stout Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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