

## GEORGE FRANKLIN HIATT

May 19, 1919 -- Aug. 28, 2005

George Franklin Hiatt, 86, 2501 Freindship Boulevard, died at 5:50 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 28, 2005, at St. Joseph Hospital. He was born in Greentown on May 19, 1919, the son of Walter and Nellie (Harrell) Hiatt. He married Anna Mae Ressler in Kokomo on April 26, 1947, and she died July 29, 1999.

George was a 1937 graduate of Jackson Township High School and a 1941 graduate of Ball State Teachers' College. He taught mathematics and coached in area schools for 37 years, retiring in 1985. Most of his teaching career was spent in the Kokomo Center Schools.

He also taught at Union City Wayne High School, Eastern High School and Sharpville High School prior to his tenure in the Kokomo Schools at Bon Air Junior High, Maple Crest Junior High and Haworth High School.

George was a veteran of World War II having served in the U.S. Army in the 240th Combat Engineer Battalion. He earned the rank of Captain. He often shared his military experiences with others, especially his rescue in the China Sea when his LST (landing ship) was hit by Kamikaze pilots and went down.

Of the 250 American soldiers on board, 50 were lost at sea, but he and the others clung together in the water for the next four hours and offered each other encouragement and emotional support. Although he was raised in the church, this experience impacted his faith in a most positive way and influenced others in a similar fashion.

He was an active member of First Congregational Christian Church where he served on many boards and taught the Adult Sunday School Lounge Class for many years. He also enjoyed the old-fashioned hymns and encouraged others to participate in the singing by his example.

Other memberships included the VFW, Howard County Retired Teachers, (past president), and the McDonald's Coffee Club. He served as president of the Board of Directors for the City of Firsts Federal Credit Union and was past president of the Metro Kiwanis of which he was the recipient of the Tablet of Honor.

He was a driver for the American Red Cross and a volunteer at The Nearly New Shop, a mission of the First Congregational Church.

George also enjoyed bowling and golf in his earlier years and was proud of his hole-in-one on a local golf course.

He served as a leader of the Boy Scouts of America when his sons were young. He was a supportive and involved father to his children throughout the years and encouraged them in their many activities.

He is survived by two sons, James G. Hiatt and his wife, Sue, Middlebury; Daniel R. Hiatt and his wife, Theresa, Kokomo; one daughter, Cheryll A. Colter and her husband, Steve, Marion; 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, and one son, Edward Leon Hiatt, along with two brothers and one sister.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, at Shirley and Stout Funeral Home, Lincoln Road Chapel, 1315 W. Lincoln Road. The Rev. Steve Colter, his son-in-law, will officiate, assisted by the Rev. Scott Keehn. Entombment will follow in Sunset Memory Gardens Mausoleum with military honors provided by the U.S. Army and the VFW Military Rites Team. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the First Congregational Christian Church Memorial Fund, 505 W. Mulberry St., with envelopes available at the funeral home.

Source: Kokomo Tribune

Publication Date: 8/29/2005