

**NORMAN A. LAKNESS**

June 11, 1920 - May 21, 2005

Norman A. Lakness, 84, died Saturday morning, May 21, 2005, at Ball Memorial Hospital after a brief illness. He was born June 11, 1920, in Beresford, S.D., a son of Nicholas and Anna Lakness Larson, who both died when he was very young. Norman lived with his aunt and uncle, who changed his last name to Lakness. Norman and his first wife did not have any children. He later married Virginia Long and they were married for 33 years. After Virginia's death, he married Nancy E. Byers in 1994, who resided in Kokomo.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. He graduated from Purdue University and pursued a career in engineering, working as a public employee for the state highway system in Indiana.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Golconda, Ill.

Survivors include his wife Nancy E. Lakness, Muncie; five stepsons, Gregg Byers, Muncie, Doug and wife JoAnn Byers, Waterloo, Ill.; Rex and wife Sharon Byers, Sharpsville, Kevin Byers, Peru, Tracy and wife Brenda Byers, Windfall; one stepdaughter, Cathy (Byers) and husband Rick Parsons, Kokomo; two additional stepsons, George and wife Alice Long, Galveston, Robert and wife Arlene Long, Kokomo, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Services are 2 p.m. Thursday at the Grace Baptist Church, 2818 S. Park Road, Kokomo. Visitation will be one hour prior to service time on Thursday at the church. The Meeks Mortuary and Crematory of Muncie is in charge of local arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to [www.meeksmortuary.com](http://www.meeksmortuary.com).

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