

HAROLD D. LAND

Aug. 30, 1918 - Oct. 14, 2005

Harold D. Land, 87, 1409 W. Superior St., crossed over into eternal life at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 14, 2005, from Morton Plant Hospital, Clearwater, Fla., with his family by his side. Harold was born Aug. 30, 1918, a son of LeRoy and Nellie (Ramseyer) Land.

He was educated in the Prairie Township schools and graduated in 1936. His parents operated several small grocery stores around Sharpsville including a huckster route about which Harold would offer many amusing stories and reminiscence.

He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942 and was trained in pursuit aircraft. He piloted P-47 Thunderbolts in Europe, completing 98 missions. He rarely spoke of his war experiences, keeping them private and unheralded. He continued to serve his country in the Air Force Reserve, retiring in 1980 as a lieutenant colonel.

The joy of his life was Maxine Haskett Land, whom he married in 1941. They were soul mates for 64 years.

Harold was employed at Continental Steel Corporation as a manager of the invoice and billing department and at retirement was assistant comptroller.

Following the war Harold joined several other Air Force veterans to operate the private sector of Kokomo Municipal Airport, which was later incorporated as Kruz-Air. He was active in public life as a Jaycee and later served as president of the local Chamber of Commerce. He served his community in various organizations too numerous to mention, all without fanfare. He enjoyed golf, ballroom dancing and puttering in his workshop. It seemed he was capable of fixing anything.

His absence is acutely felt by his wife Maxine; his daughter, Jill Baker and son-in-law Dan; his son Kent Land and daughter-in-law Jeanette; and German foreign exchange son Klaus Dollmaier and wife Ute. He also is survived by one sister, Dellagene Bender and husband Malcolm, as well as grandchildren Jennifer Dogherty and husband Dan, Angela Walbolt and husband Mark, Missy Harting and husband Charlie; and nine great-grandchildren. His absence will surely be felt by the numerous friends and relatives Harold and Maxine were privileged to know.

His children delight in and feel blessed by their time in this committed family. Harold was a gentle, self-less and hardworking soul whose life by quiet example has been found honorable.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Shirley & Stout Funeral Home, Lincoln Road Chapel, 1315 W. Lincoln Road, with the Rev. Paul Rogers and the Rev. Harold Williams officiating. Burial will follow at Sunset Memory Garden Cemetery with military honors provided by the Air Force and the Kokomo VFW Military Rites Team. Friends may call at the funeral home from 2 until 7 p.m. today. Memorial contributions may be made to Main Street Methodist Church, 830 S. Main St., with envelopes available at the funeral home.

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