



# Railsplitter Obituary



## **Burt Banholzer**

Aug. 15, 1925 - Dec. 21, 2014

Bert Banholzer of Filer, Idaho, passed away peacefully Sunday, Dec. 21, 2014.

Bert was born to Minnie and Leonard Banholzer on Aug. 15, 1925, in Milwaukee, Wis. He attended schools in Milwaukee and kept in contact with four of his junior high school friends up until his death.

In the middle of his senior year in high school, he was drafted into the United States Army and joined the feared "Fighting 36th 'Texas' Infantry Division," graduating from boot camp on June 6, 1944, designated as a Combat Medic. He fought with the 36th Division through the muddy forests and snowy mountains of southern France, eventually crossing the Rhine River into Germany and Austria, where they captured many high-ranking Nazis at the end of the war. His many awards and medals included the Bronze Star, which he received for treating several wounded GI's and carrying them to safety while under heavy enemy small arms and artillery fire. Shortly after the war, he transitioned to the Army Reserve, finally retiring at the rank of sergeant major. For his full-time job, he was as a technician for the Bureau of Identification for the Milwaukee Police Department. He was also active in the Wisconsin Industrial Photographers' Association.



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He ended his bachelorhood of 48 years on April 14, 1974, when he married Eileen Lierman from Filer, Idaho. Eileen was teaching in the Lutheran School System in the Milwaukee area at that time. In August of 1993, they moved to the Clover area, where Eileen had grown up. Bert said he could retire there because of the beautiful Clear Lakes Golf Course which was where he would golf while visiting his wife's family in the Buhl/Filer area. Once retired, they became world travelers, visiting Germany, Russia, Scandinavia, travels to Hawaii, Alaska and regular trips back to Wisconsin. In the past, he had served as the Clover Precinct committeeman for the Twin Falls County Republican Central Committee. He was an active member of the Buhl Rotary Club. He lived to care for his community and country.

Bert was preceded in death by his parents; and a sister, Delmar. He is survived by his wife, Eileen; and several of her loving nieces, nephews and their children who treated them as their second grandparents.