



Railsplitter Obituary



Hillard Leroy Viets

19 March 1920 – 18 June 2011

Hillard LeRoy Viets, 91, went to be with his Lord and Savior while surrounded by his loving family on Saturday, June 18, 2011. He was born on March 19, 1920, in Cole Camp, Mo., one of six children of Otto and Leora Viets, who are deceased. The family moved to Springfield, Mo., where his father was Captain of the Missouri State Highway Patrol and where Hillard went to high school. After high school, he studied to become a Court Reporter, was offered and accepted a position in Milwaukee, where he was the official Court Reporter of Circuit Court Judge William Shaughnessy. He married Norma Seefeldt (a native Milwaukeean, whom he met at church) on June 27, 1942. He was drafted into the Army in World War II in 1944. After basic training, he was sent to Officers' Candidate School, graduated as a Second Lieutenant through "rank" promotions; he retired from the 84th Division as a Colonel. Three of four children survive him, son, Mark (Barbara), retired Pastor from Cleveland, Ohio; daughter, Marilyn of Milwaukee; and daughter, Sharon (Philip) Berce of Franksville; one son, Timothy (Chris) is deceased. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren, Matthew (Jennifer) Viets, Josette (Ryan) Kirker, Joan Viets, Amy (Evan) Paul, Beth (Bill) Hecker, Paul (Chelsey) Viets, Jacob Berce, Alex Berce, Gina (J.J.) Lipor, Philip Berce, and Christa Berce. One grandchild, Maria Viets is deceased. He is further survived by five great-grandchildren, Steven Viets, Kellen Kirker, Abigail Hecker, David Hecker, and Levi Hecker. He is also survived by two brothers and two sisters, Robert Viets of Kansas City, Mo., Earl Viets of Springfield, Mo., Lena Estes, and Betty (Kenneth) Smith,



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both of Lee's Summit, Mo.; nieces and nephews and other relatives and friends. Hillard loved instrumental and choral music; he enjoyed his hobbies of sailing, photography, and woodworking; and he treasured spending time with his family. He had a heart and voice full of praise and thanks for God's awesome creation, for his Savior's redeeming love, and for the Holy Spirit's revelation of Truth from God's Word. The family would like to thank the staff of Ridgewood Care Center for their outstanding, compassionate care of their loved one.