

**Niebel, Ralph E.**

Ralph E. "Ernie" Niebel, 80, of Pigeon, passed away on Veterans Day, November 11, 2005, at Scheurer Hospital in Pigeon. He was born in Pigeon on July 12, 1925, son of the late Frederick and Salome (Tschumi) Niebel, and graduated in 1944 from Pigeon High School. During World War II, he served with the United States Navy in the Pacific. On September 9, 1950, Ralph was united in marriage to Naomi "Peach" Collon at the Wisner Methodist Parsonage. She survives him. Mr. Niebel enjoyed fishing and watching parades as well as marching in them. In his earlier years, he enjoyed bowling and playing poker. He was a member of the Pigeon First United Methodist Church and a Life Member of the Pigeon V.F.W. Post 2236. In addition to his wife of more than 55 years, Naomi "Peach" Niebel, of Pigeon, he is survived by two children, Denise Niebel and her friend, Mike Particka, of Ubly, and Allen Niebel and his wife, Dana, of Owendale; seven grandchildren, Melissa, Stephanie, Kamie, Kristen, Michael, Amy and Bryan; three great-grandchildren, Brady, Chelsea and Ashton; a sister, Gladys Spence, of Pigeon; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by three brothers, Stanley, Loren and Leonard. The funeral service will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Monday, November 14, 2005, at Pigeon First United Methodist Church, with the Rev. John J. Britt, pastor, officiating. Burial with military honors will be in Grand Lawn Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1 to 9 p.m. today at the Meyersieck-Bussema Funeral Home in Pigeon, and from 10 a.m. until the time of the service on Monday at the church. Memorials for Mr. Niebel may be made to Heartland Hospice, the American Heart Association, or Pigeon First United Methodist Church.