

Williston, James A

James Allen Williston, 76, of Bad Axe passed away Saturday morning, June 29, 2002, at his home following a probable heart attack. He was born in Flint on March 21, 1926 at the home of his parents, the late Harlan "Bill" and Marie (Bohms) Williston. Jim enlisted in the Navy at age 17 and served on the USS West Virginia in the South Pacific for four years during World War II. After his time in the service, he joined his family in Bad Axe, where they had moved from Bay City while Jim was overseas. He, along with his father and family, started Bill Williston & Sons Auto Parts in Bad Axe. He later completed high school and earned an associates degree in business form Northeastern School of Commerce in Bay City. On November 22, 1952 he was united in marriage to Jessie I. McDowell at the first Presbyterian Church of Bad Axe. Jim and his brothers operated the family business until he retired and it closed in 1987. He was a member of the Chandler Presbyterian Church, Elkton VFW Post No. 6013, Bay Port American Legion Post NO. 533, and past president of the Upper Thumb chapter of Ducks Unlimited. He was also a life member of the Verona Lodge No. 365 F&AM, Huronia Chapter NO. 81 OES, Bad Axe Commandery No. 53 KT, Huron Shrine Club, Scottish Rite Valley of Bay City, Elf Khurafeh Temple of Saginaw and the Lebanon Chapter NO. 125 Royal Arch Masons of Michigan. Surviving are his wife, Jessie; two daughters, Janet Legacy and her husband, Thomas, of Perry, and JoAnne Stitt and her husband, Robert, of Ypsilanti; five grandchildren, Brent, Cherissa, George, Carly and James. Also surviving are three brothers, Bill Williston and his wife, Clara, of Bad Axe, Wade Williston and his wife, Lillian, of Essexville, and Dave Williston and his wife, Nancy, of Bad Axe; three sisters, Shirley Pasant of East Lansing, Phyllis Clutter of Willamette, IL and Janet Saikin and her husband, Henry, of Glenview, IL; and many nieces and nephews. A brother, Harland, preceded him in death. Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Tuesday July 2, 2002 at the First Presbyterian Church, Bad Axe. The Rev. Jan Dykshoorn, pastor, and the Rev. Frank VanValen will officiate. A Masonic memorial service will be conducted at 7 p.m. today at the church. Visitation will be from 2 to 9 p.m. today and after 10 a.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Memorials may be given to Shriner's Children's Hospital, American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, or the donor's choice. Arrangements are being handled by Champagne Funeral Home, Elkton. Words of condolence or tribute may be sent to www.CFCelkton.com.