

McIlhargie, Col. William L.

Col. William L. McIlhargie (Ret.), 83, of Pinnebog, passed away Monday, October 3, 2005, at Northwood Meadows in Cass City. Bill was born to the late Archie and Vera (Merrick) McIlhargie on April 10, 1922 in Port Huron. He graduated from Bad Axe High School in 1940 and then attended Central Michigan University for one and a half years. He then enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1942. During his tour of duty, he received the Purple Heart along with several other service awards. Lt. McIlhargie was a master navigator with nearly 5,000 hours of flying time. He flew 20 combat missions, totaling 90 combat hours in a B-17 during World War II in Europe and received the World War II Victory Medal. Lt. McIlhargie, at age 23, was a navigator on an AAF B-17 Flying Fortress when he was reported missing in action in Germany for 11 months. He obtained the rank of Colonel on May 16, 1969 and retired in 1970. Bill is survived by his wife, Jenny, of 59 years; three children, Beverly Arevelo and her husband, Hugo, of Half Moon Bay, California, Dawn McIlhargie, of Clermont, Florida, and Daryl McIlhargie and his wife, Shelley, of Albuquerque, New Mexico; two grandchildren, Miles McIlhargie, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Meghan McIlhargie, of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Services will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Friday, October 7, 2005, at the MacAlpine Funeral Home in Bad Axe. Officiating will be the Rev. Luke Yoder, pastor of the Pigeon River Mennonite Church. Burial will be in the Colfax Township Cemetery with full military honors. Visitation will be from 7 to 9 p.m. today, from 1 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, and from 10 a.m. until the time of service on Friday at MacAlpine Funeral Home in Bad Axe. Memorials may be offered to the United Hospice of Marlette or Chandler Presbyterian Church.