

Kohl, James A.

James A. "Jim" Kohl, 75, of Pigeon, passed away at home Thursday, May 21, 2009 surrounded by his loving family.

He was born Nov. 20, 1933 on a farm in Bad Axe and graduated in 1951 from Bay Port High School.

He served with the U.S. Army as a medic during the Korean War.

On Dec. 23, 1950, he was united in marriage to Lorraine B. Henne in Bad Axe. She preceded him in death June 16, 1998. On Feb. 24, 2001, he was married to Susan J. Kaplan, who survives him.

Jim's first job was making boxes, for 5 cents each, at the Bay Port Fish Company docks. He retired in 1996 as D.P.W. supervisor, having worked for the Village of Pigeon for 17 years. He was previously employed at a variety of jobs: construction, service station, Bay Port Elevator, farming and selling agricultural seed. He had also been the Bay Port Constable.

Jim loved his community, serving as Pigeon Village President from 1996-2001, as well as village councilman, where he was currently serving. He enjoyed Laker sports, concerts and plays, and was an avid supporter of U. of M. sports, particularly football. He also was a fan of the Detroit Tigers, the Red Wings and Frank Sinatra. In his younger years, he enjoyed duck hunting and playing softball.

Jim loved his family and friends. He was a library volunteer who looked forward to taking books to his friends at Country Bay Village. He was an active member of the Bay Port United Methodist Church, where he served as administrative council president, and sang in the church choir as well as the community chorus.

In addition to his wife, Susan, of Pigeon, Jim is survived by three daughters, Kristina Dietzel and her husband, David, of Houghton Lake, Pamela King of Bad Axe, and Cheri Garno and her husband, Paul, of Birch Run; two sons, Darin Kohl and his wife, Lori, of Reed City and Brian Kohl and his wife, Tiffanee, of Bay City; 10 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and his in-laws, Robert and Marietta Tornow of Sun City West, Arizona.

He was preceded in death by two infant sons; two brothers, Orlo and Byron; and three sisters, Bessi, Beryl and Shirley.

The funeral service will be conducted at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 24 at the Bay Port United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Douglas Mater, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in New Bay Port Cemetery. Visitation will be from 2 to 9 p.m. Saturday at the Meyersieck-Bussema Funeral Home and from 2 until the service time at 3 p.m. Sunday at the church.

Memorials may be made to Bay Port United Methodist Church.