

Des Jardins, Arthur J.

Arthur Jay Des Jardins, 79, of Caseville, died Sunday, July 17, 2005, at St. Mary's Hospital in Saginaw of cancer. Art was born April 18, 1926 in Fillion to the late Samuel and Ruth (Horton) Des Jardins. He grew up in Fillion and graduated from Kinde High School in 1943. He entered the U.S. Navy during World War II, and stayed in the Navy for 20 years, serving for many years at Grosse Ile. He was discharged as a Chief Petty Officer. Art married Alma Storebeck of Kinde on December 11, 1948 in Tom's River, New Jersey. After retiring from the Navy, he moved to the Flint/Fenton area and worked there for 20 years as a State Farm Insurance agent, retiring in 1985. His wife, Alma, died on October 30, 1984 and he then married Patricia Neu on December 14, 1985 at St. Roch Catholic Church in Caseville. Together they retired to Caseville that same year. Art was a lifetime member of the VFW #4289 in Winter Haven, Florida, where he helped convert the current hall from an old airplane hanger. He also used his skills as a woodworker to craft flag and window cases that remain an integral part of that club's history to this day. He was a member of the Caseville Eagles #3690 and enjoyed hunting and fishing. Art is survived by his wife, Patricia; children, Barbara Des Jardins (Richard Lutowski), of Texas, Paul, of Flint, Thomas (Kathy), of California, Gary (Karen), of Midland, and Kenneth, of Illinois; step children, Missie Wellman, of White Lake, and James (Bridgit) Delaney, of Grand Cayman B.W.I.; 11 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter; sisters, Milly Cox, of Montana, and Frances Daron, of Idaho; and a brother, Ron Des Jardins, of Montana. Art was preceded in death by his wife, Alma; siblings, Robert, Kenneth, Beatrice, Eugene and Alma Gottschalk; and a granddaughter, Marcia Lutowski. A funeral scripture service will be at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 20, 2005, at St. Roch Catholic Church, Caseville, with the Rev. Kenneth Yaroch presiding. Burial with military honors will be in Colfax Township Cemetery. Visitation will be from 2 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday at the Champagne Funeral Chapel of Caseville and from 9 a.m. until the time of the service on Wednesday at the church. There will be a veteran's memorial service at 4 p.m. on Tuesday. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or to the family. Condolences may be shared online at www.cfcCaseville.com.