

Walsh, Michael J.

Mr. Michael James Walsh, 86, of Austin Township, passed away on Friday, September 8, 2006, at his residence under hospice care. He was born on June 26, 1920 in Tyre to the late Walter Joseph and Susan Gertrude (McMillan) Walsh. He married Donna Jean Smith on February 18, 1943 in Abilene, Texas. Michael was a WWII veteran serving in the United States Army from 1942 to 1946. He was with the Headquarters Company 119th Armored Engineer Battalion. He was awarded two bronze stars and a victory medal. He farmed most of his life. He was a board member for many organizations, the Independent Milk Producers Association, the McDonald Dairy Committee, the American Dairy Council, the Cumber School Board, the St. Ignatius Parish Council and Cemetery Board, and the Austin Township Board of Review. He was a parishioner at St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Freiburg and was very involved in the renovations of the church. He enjoyed traveling with his wife, Donna, but always was glad to return home to the farm. Michael is survived by his wife of 63 years, Donna, of Austin Township; his children, Linda McClain and her husband, Robert, of Davison, James Walsh and his wife, Cheryl, of White Lake, Rochelle Weber and her husband, Donald, of Santee, California, Cindy Smith and her husband, Michael, of Tarpon Springs, Florida, David Walsh and his wife, Karen, of Ubly, Nancy Braun and her husband, Joseph, of Ubly; 16 grandchildren; two great-granddaughters; three brothers, Louis Walsh and wife, Rosalie, of Ubly, Joseph Walsh and his wife, Patricia, of Ubly, Daniel Walsh, of Farmington; one sister, Susan Brown, of LaMesa, California. He was preceded in death by four brothers, Mark "Pete", Leo, Raymond and Maurice Walsh; two sisters, Lila Lamphere and Beatrice Bauman. A Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. on Monday, September 11, 2006, at St. Ignatius Catholic Church of Freiburg. The Rev. Joseph Griffin, pastor, will officiate. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Visitation will be from 2 to 9 p.m. today at the Zinger-Smigielski Funeral Home, Ubly, and from 10 to 11 a.m. on Monday at the church. Memorials may be made to the St. Ignatius Church or Heartland Hospice.