

Earl Wesley Zniwski, 84
St. Cloud, MN
Nov. 18, 1933 - July 31, 2018



Earl was called from this life July 31, 2018, at St. Cloud Hospital surrounded by his family. He attained the age of 84 years, eight months and 13 days.

Funeral services were at 11 a.m. Aug. 4 at St. John's Episcopal Church, St. Cloud. Visitation was from 5-7 p.m. Aug. 3 at Benson Funeral Home, St. Cloud, and one hour prior to the service at the church Saturday. Burial was in North Star Cemetery, St. Cloud.

Earl Wesley Zniwski was born Nov. 18, 1933, in St. Cloud, the son of Emil Carl and Ethel Mitilda (Stark) Zniwski. He was baptized Dec. 3, 1933 at home and confirmed May 12, 1946 by Rev. Victor Geriki at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. He grew up in St. Cloud and attended Jefferson Junior High, Tech High School, Grinnell College, and the University of Minnesota. Earl served his country in the United States Army from Oct. 20, 1954 to Oct. 6, 1956 and was stationed in Germany. He was the last person in Benton County to be drafted into the Korean War.

In 1960, Earl married Elizabeth Smith and during their marriage they were blessed with five children.

Earl worked at Rex Granite for 54 years. He and his brothers, Neil and Carl, took over the business from their father, Emil. Through the years they saw many changes and innovations in the granite industry. Earl retired in 2008 at the age of 75.

On July 20, 1990, Earl was united in marriage to Jane (Jan) DeBerry Lafferty at the old library at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph. This union was blessed with more than 28 years of marriage.

Earl was a member and trustee of Monument Builders of North America, member and president of American Monument Association, member and officer of the Exchange Club, and member and treasurer of St. John's Episcopal Church. Among the many things he enjoyed were fishing, hunting, sports, travel, playing cards and cribbage, Sudoku, playing on his iPhone, volunteering at St. Cloud Hospital, and spending time with family and friends, especially the many summers at Leech Lake.

He is survived by his wife, Jan; children: Greg (Julie Feddema) Zniwski of Benson, Mary (Jim) Brown of Astoria, S.D., Kurt (Andrea Schoberg) Zniwski of Foley, Lynda Zniwski Ashcroft (Doug Kilanowski) of South Haven, and Joanne (Ramiz) Kolenovic of Montclair, N.J.; step-children, Sean (Karen Bingea) Lafferty of Chanhassen and Meg (Joseph) Schuller of Wadena; 20 grandchildren: Susan, Amy, Zach, Heather, Grace, Eli, Jack, Allison, Emma, Deanna, Ryan, Alli, Connor, T.J., Randy, Bob, Mick, Steven, Derek, and Jessica; five great-grandchildren: Maddox, Hayden, Zoie, Mila, and Finley; and brother, Carl (Janet) Zniwski of St. Cloud; sister-in-law, Donna Zniwski of St. Cloud; and brother-in-law, Rod Sall of St. Paul.

Earl was preceded in death by his parents, Emil and Ethel Zniwski; grandson, Seth Earl Zencius; siblings: Joyce Thiss, Neil Zniwski, Karen Sall; and step-son, Patrick (Sandy Vawters) Lafferty.

Our country is in Mourning, A Soldier has died today