

## **Bittner, Herbert**

Herbert A. H. Bittner, 86, of Harbor Beach and long time Elkton native, died Tuesday evening, Sept. 24, 2002, at Tendercare in Cass City. He was born Sept. 17, 1916, near Elkton at the home of his parents, the late Gustav and Edna (Error) Bittner. On Oct. 11, 1937, he was united in marriage to Marietta Souva at Hewleton. In 1943, he joined the U.S. Navy and served his country in the South Pacific and Philippines during World War II. On his return, Herb owned and operated several businesses in Elkton, including Herb's Bar (now Bud's), the Elkton Dry Cleaners, and the Elkton Bowling Alley, at various times. In 1979, he retired from Smith Distributing where he had been employed over 15 years. Two years later he and Marietta moved to a farm in Sigel Township. Herb was a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Bad Axe, past president of the Elkton Rotary Club and Community Club, a charter member of the Sportsman's Club, a founder of the Elkton VFW Post, village assessor for 21 years, and served on the Elkton Village Council for many years. Herb was on the Elkton/Oliver Fire Department for 42 years, serving as chief for 28 years. He also showed free outdoor movies in many Thumb area towns during the late 1940's. Surviving are his wife of 65 years, Marietta; his daughter, Joan Hanson and her husband, Al, of Grindstone; four sons, Ron Bittner and his wife, Carol, of Bridgeport, Jerry Bittner and his wife, Crystal, of Anchorage, Alaska, Bill Bittner and his wife, Diana, of Elkton, and Jim Bittner of Carlsbad, Calif.; 15 grandchildren, Cindy, Kelly, Roxanne, Peggy, Stacy, Ron, Norm, Amy, Steve, Chris, David, Deidra, Dan, Ryan, and Randi; 21 great-grandchildren; his sister, Ina Holcomb of Augusta, Ga; a brother, Arnold Bittner of Saginaw; and many nieces and nephews. Preceding him in death were his granddaughter, Cheryl Bittner; three sisters, Hilda Schmidt, Wilma Werner, and Betty Lou Stensrud; and four brothers, Larry, Walter, Alvin, and Richard Bittner. Funeral services will be conducted at 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27, 2002, at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Bad Axe. The Rev. Kenneth Lueke, pastor, will officiate, with graveside military honors by the Elkton VFW post at Riverside Cemetery, Elkton. Visitation will be from 2 to 9 p.m. today at the Champagne Funeral Chapel, Elkton, and from noon until the time of service Friday at the church. Memorials may be given to his church, the Oliver Township Fire Department Memorial, or the family. Words of condolence may be written at [www.CFCelkton.com](http://www.CFCelkton.com).