

DeFrain, George

George "Pete" DeFrain, 93, of Harbor Beach, passed away at his home with hospice care on Thursday, December 4, 2003. Born in Bay City on February 9, 1910, he was the son of the late George and Catherine (Murray) DeFrain. George and Bernice Schornack were united in marriage on July 9, 1949 in Harbor Beach. Bernice preceded him in death on February 24, 1999. Pete was a 1929 graduate of Harbor Beach High School and after graduation worked in the A & P Store as well as working for his father at the Huron Milling Co. in the Cooper Barrel Shop. As World War II was progressing, Pete joined the Army and participated in various European conflicts including the Normandy Invasion at Utah Beach. Following the service, he was the co-owner of the American House with "Red" Hunter for a short time. Pete worked at the Huron Milling Co. and Hercules, and retired from the machine shop at Hercules in 1972 after working for 30 years. Following retirement, Pete and Bernice enjoyed traveling and spending their winters in Florida. He was an avid golfer all his life. He even played in Europe during his duty in World War II. Pete was a member of the Verona Hills Golf Club for 56 years. He enjoyed playing rummy, euchre and doing jigsaw puzzles after he stopped playing golf. He also enjoyed doing yard work and working in his flower gardens. Pete was a life member and charter member of the VFW Post 9344 of Harbor Beach and was a continuous member for 59 years of the American Legion Post 197 of Harbor Beach, and he was a long time member of the Our Lady of Lake Huron Catholic Church of Harbor Beach. Surviving are his son, Alan DeFrain and his wife, Jean, of Odessa, Florida; brother, Leonard DeFrain, of Harbor Beach; three sisters, Agatha Sullivan, of St. Petersburg, Florida, Kathryn Widdows, of Sun City, Arizona, and Sarah Healy, of Harbor Beach. Pete was preceded in death by five brothers, Murray, Wilson, Arthur, Raymond and Russell DeFrain; and a sister, Ferande Hopton. A funeral mass will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2003, at 10:30 a.m. in Our Lady of Lake Huron Catholic Church, Harbor Beach, with Fr. Gerald Kukla, pastor, officiating. Burial with military honors by the VFW and American Legion will be in the church cemetery. A parish vigil service will be at 7:30 p.m. today in the Ramsey Funeral Home, Harbor Beach. Visitation will be from 1 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. today at the funeral home and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until the service time at the church. Memorials may be given to the OLLH Church or School, Heartland Hospice, or Harbor Beach Hospital.