

## **Robert B. LaBelle**



Robert B. LaBelle, 80, summer resident of Port Austin and winter resident of Foley, Ala., passed away Friday, Sept. 28, 2007 at the Huron Medical Center, Bad Axe. He was born March 24, 1927 in Bad Axe to the late Benjamin and Grace (Deman) LaBelle. Robert La Belle and Miss Grace Dwyer were united in marriage in 1950 in Bad Axe. She preceded him in death on Feb. 2, 1989. On Jan. 7, 1998, Robert married Nancy (McLelland) Smith.

Mr. LaBelle was a parishioner at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Port Austin. Robert served with the United States Navy during World War II in the Pacific Theater as a Motor Machinist's Mate. Robert received the Asiatic Pacific Medal, American Area Medal and Victory Medal. He received a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University and a master's degree from the University of Michigan. He retired in 1986 from General Foods Corporation (now Kraft Foods) after 25 years of service.

Robert was an avid history buff and compiled more than 79 books on Huron County ancestry. His hobbies included studying the American Civil War, writing genealogy booklets, woodworking and designing crosstitch kits. He was a member of the Port Austin Area Historical Society and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He worked as a volunteer at the Naval Museum in Pensacola, Fla. Transferring records to the computer system.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy of Port Austin; four daughters Marie (David) McNamara of Macomb Township, Monica (Peter) Stratton of Syracuse, N.Y., Jane (Robert) Hanson of Sterling Heights, Kathleen (Brian) Kenna of West Dundee, Ill.; six sons, Benjamin (Diane) LaBelle of Traverse City, Thomas (Cynthia) LaBelle of Sanford, N.C., Dennis (Sandy) LaBelle of Hilton, N.Y., Mark (Allison) LaBelle of Sterling, Va., Philip (Sandy) LaBelle of Troy, and Timothy (Donna) LaBelle of Florida, N.Y.; two step-children, Robert W. (Mary) Smith of Midland, Susan K. (William) Catton of Grand Blanc; 18 grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren; one sister, Grace Ann (Frank) Phillips of Bay City; three brothers, John (Carol) LaBelle of Port Austin, Charles (Marie) LaBelle of east Tawas and Edward (Pamela) LaBelle of Cass City; and several nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 11 a.m. Monday, Oct. 1, 2007 at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Port Austin. Fr. Rudy will officiate. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Bad Axe.

Memorials may be made to the Port Austin Historical Society.