

Ruff, Ernest J.

Ernest Jack Ruff, 84, of Pigeon and formerly of Royal Oak, passed away Saturday, April 26, 2008 at Scheurer Hospital in Pigeon.

Born Aug. 5. 1923 in Detroit, he was the son of the late Ernest Carl Fredrick and Adelaide Emma Alberta (Goerlitz) Ruff. He graduated from Denby High School as well as Tool & Die Trade School, and served as a Motor Machinist Mate First Class on the USS Rosewood with the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific during World War II.

On June 2, 1947, he was united in marriage to Barbara J. Ferris in Angola, Ind. Ernie retired from G.M. Warren Technical Center after 42 years. He was a former member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Royal Oak where he had been Council President and taught Bible study as well as Confirmation classes. He was involved in a Christian Clown Ministry, was a former softball coach, and played Church League basketball. He enjoyed fishing and was an avid outdoorsman. He was an excellent baker, having learned to bake during the G.M. strike in 1971. The couple moved to Huron County in 1985, where Ernie was involved with the Port Austin Players and the Top of the Thumb Leisure Ministries. He was a member of Cross Lutheran Church, Pigeon. Ernie was very devoted to his wife and family. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, to whom he was married for more than 60 years; five children, David Charles (Linda) Ruff of Harrison Township, Kathleen (Michael Boardman) Ruff of Lansing, Marilyn Jean (Gregg Walther) Ruff of Perkasio, Pa., Paul Ernest (Kerry) Ruff of Knoxville, Tenn., and Karen Louise (Craig) Barnhart of Beverly Hills; 14 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a brother, Charles Alfred (Margaret) Ruff of Warren; a sister, Carolyn Adelaide Gentz of Sterling Heights; and several nieces and nephews. Funeral service will be conducted at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 29, 2008 at Cross Lutheran Church, Pigeon, with the Rev. Tim Loehrke, pastor, officiating. Cremation will take place at Sunset Valley Crematory, and inurnment at the church cemetery.

Visitation will be from 1:30 until the service at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at Cross Lutheran Church, Pigeon.

Memorials may be made to Cross Lutheran Church or School, Parkinson's Disease Foundation, or the donor's choice of charity.

Meyersieck-Bussema Funeral Home, Pigeon, is conducting the arrangements.