

Nagel, Benjamin

Benjamin Francis Nagel, 79, of Bad Axe passed away Sunday, Feb. 20, 2000, at Huron Memorial Hospital in Bad Axe after fighting a courageous battle with heart disease. His illness may have won the fight, but God is the real Victor. He was born April 24, 1920, in Armstrong Creek, Wis., son of the late Marion and Valeria Nagel. At the age of 4, his parents moved to Candor, N.Y., where they farmed and Benjamin attended the Free Academy High School in Owego, N.Y. At that time in 1940, the country was in turmoil. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on March 7, 1940. He was stationed at Hickam Field Army Base near Pearl Harbor when the war broke out on Dec. 7, 1941. He had many stories to tell of Pearl Harbor, the Soloman Islands and Australia. He received an honorable discharge with a service-connected disability on July 25, 1945. He went back to Candor, N.Y., and stayed at the family farm with his parents until spring 1946. He left Candor and arrived in Detroit where he found work as a tool and die maker. Later, he worked for the Gobel Brewing Co. In 1947, Benjamin Nagel and Josephine Masa were married at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bad Axe. Their marriage was blessed with two wonderful sons, Ronald M. Nagel and Charles F. Nagel. They moved to Bad Axe from Detroit. He was in partnership with his brother-in-law Elmer O'Berski at the City Cleaners in Bad Axe. Ben worked for several years at the cleaners then decided he wanted to do something else. He worked for Pigeon Manufacturing Co. for a short time. But Ben was a farmer at heart, so he started his own mobile feed business, serving farmers by grinding and milling their grain. He enjoyed his work and had made many wonderful friends. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and was an usher for many years. He belonged to Verona Hills Golf Club, the VFW Post of Bad Axe, the Pigeon VFW and was the commander of VFW Post No. 7057736 from 1967 to 1968. He loved to fish, hunt, bowl, play golf and visit with friends at the coffee shop. Surviving are his wife; two sons, Ronald Nagel and his wife, Dawn, of Bad Axe and Charles Nagel and his wife, Roslyn, of Bad Axe; three grandchildren, Richell Wittmuss Kostas, Jeff Wittmuss and Stephanie Nagel; four great-grandchildren, Elizabeth Kostas, Taylor Wittmuss, Zachary Wittmuss and Allie Wittmuss; one sister, Camilla Reed of Chattanooga, Tenn.; two sisters-in-law, Jessie Nagel of Candor, N.Y. and Lorraine Nagel of Buffalo, N.Y.; and several nieces and nephews. Benjamin was preceded in death by two sisters, Sophie Dill and Lottie Netupski; and four brothers, Stanley Nagel, Arthur Nagel, Zygmunt Nagel and Victor Nagel, who was killed during World War II and is buried at National Memorial Cemetery in Honolulu, Hawaii. Mass of Christian Burial will be conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2000, from Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bad Axe. The Rev. Fr. Jack Leipert, pastor, will officiate. Burial will take place in Sacred Heart Cemetery. A wake scripture service will take place at 8 p.m. tonight at MacAlpine Funeral Home in Bad Axe. Visitation will be from 1 to 9 p.m. today and from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. We will miss you dearly, our loving husband, father and friend.