

JOHN FRANCIS THAYER
1919 - 1998

John F. Thayer, age 78, of Elkton died Friday morning, May 1, at Veteran's Administration Hospital, Saginaw.

He was born August 18, 1919 in Bad Axe, son of the late Frank and Bessie (Turnbull) Thayer.

On July 19, 1945 he was united in marriage to Rita Riyara in Chicago. She preceded him in death September 5, 1972.

Mr. Thayer served in the Army Air Corps during WW II. He was in the first wave in the Battle of the Bulge on D-day and served through out the European Theater. Upon his return to civilian life he farmed in the Deckerville area where he raised his family. He concurrently worked as a trucker for Commercial Carriers hauling Cadillacs to the West Coast. He then worked construction in the Detroit area for 10 years. In 1979, he retired from the Deckerville High School, where he had been employed as a custodian for 6 years.

On July 6, 1979 in married Martha A. (Rosenthal) Swalwell in Elkton, where they made their home for the past 19 years.

John attended Trinity Lutheran Church, Elkton and enjoyed traveling, camping and wetting a line now and then. He raised tropical fish for years and enjoyed caring for his yard and mowing his lawn. His current interest was a parrot named George.

Surviving are his wife Martha; his children Fred (Valerie) Thayer of Nashville, TN, Judy (Larry) Macklem of Ann Arbor, Sharon (John) White of Deckerville, Shelley (David) Smith and Rodney (special friend, Gail Richards) Swalwell of Bad Axe; 11 grandchildren, Greg (Heather), Yvonne, Mike, Jill, Steve, Cindy (Jason), Todd (Linda), Janice (Kevin), Julie (Roy), Troy and Jennifer, 7 great grandchildren, Courtney, David, Christopher, Angela, Nichole, Stephanie and Chelsie; and his parrot, George.

A son Frank preceded him in death.

Funeral services will be conducted 11:00 AM Monday, May 4, at the Champagne Funeral Chapel, Elkton. Rev. Elton Bickel, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church will officiate with burial in Downing Cemetery, Deckerville.

Memorials may be given to:

Trinity Lutheran Church roofing project.