

## **Claude "Sandy" John Hornbacher**

Claude "Sandy" John Hornbacher, 93, of Sebewaing, went to see his Lord and Savior, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014, in the comfort of his own home.

Claude was born March 31, 1920, in Sebewaing, to the late William and Metha (Dressler) Hornbacher. He was baptized at St. John Lutheran Church in Kilmanagh by the Rev. Stoskopf in April 1920 and confirmed by the Rev. Stoskopf on Nov. 26, 1933.

He attended Mast School (District #3), and graduated from Sebewaing High School in 1935. He graduated from Michigan State College in June 1940, with a BS Degree in agriculture.

He married Clara Roemer June 22, 1941. They were married for 72 years.

Claude served in the U.S. Army. He entered at Fort Riley, Kan. on Feb. 11, 1942, as a 2nd Lieutenant (ROTC at college). He served in the Pacific Theater of War with the 7th Infantry Division. He fought battles on Attu, Kwajilin, Leyte and Okinawa. Claude received the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Distinguished Units of Citation with Oak Leaf Clusters and many other medals. He was honorably discharged on Dec. 27, 1945, at Fort Sheridan, Ill.

He farmed for several years and was appointed rural mail carrier at the Sebewaing Post Office on Aug. 11, 1957. He retired on Jan. 3, 1986, after 28 years on the same mail route.

Claude was a lifelong member of St. John Lutheran Church in Kilmanagh. He was church treasurer for some years and served as Sunday school superintendent for 25 years.

Hobbies include avid book reading and collecting stamps since 1957. He was the pioneer of card playing at the Hornbacher family gatherings. He loved to play with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, especially Ryan and Luke. He served on the Board of Directors of the Sebewaing Co-op for 21 years. He was chairman of the Sebewaing Township Library Board for many years. He was a lifelong member of the National Rural Letter Carriers Association and a life member of the American Legion.

Claude is survived by his wife, Clara; children, Bruce Hornbacher, Royce (Sheila) Hornbacher, Rhoda (Wayne) Bolzman, Dave Hornbacher, Rudy (Tona) Hornbacher, Ruby (Paul) Martinez and Jan Hornbacher; sister, June Bush; grandchildren, Eric (Kim) Hornbacher, Joshua (Barbette) Hornbacher, Denise (Tom) Bambach, Chris (Anna) Bolzman, Matthew (Gina) Bolzman, Michael (Michelle) Bolzman, Angela (Mike) Mandich, Joel (Spark) Bolzman, Dave (Bethany) Hornbacher, Neil (Laura) (Hornbacher) Tracy (Joseph) Beindit, Gregory Hornbacher, Nathan (Kim) Hornbacher, Justin Hornbacher, Krista Hornbacher, Heather Hornbacher, Jenny Martinez, Chad Hornbacher, Rachel Hornbacher, Ryan Hornbacher and Sarah Hornbacher; and

great-grandchildren, Lindsay Hornbacher, Christian Hornbacher, Jordan Hornbacher, Zachary Bambach, Kaylee Bambach, Kelsey Bolzman, Luke Bolzman, Lyndsey Bolzman, Brandon Bolzman, Brianna Bolzman, Lauren Mandich, Michael Mandich, Madison Mandich, Layla Bolzman, Grady Bolzman, Kady Hornbacher, Dave Hornbacher, Jr., Maxwell Hornbacher, Jacob Beindit, Tyler Beindit, Brayden Hornbacher, Korbin Hornbacher, Zyon Hornbacher, Andrew Hornbacher and Alexa Houthoofd.

He was preceded in death by brother, Willard Hornbacher; a stillborn baby brother; son-in-law, Wayne Robert Bolzman; a stillborn great-grandson, Aaron Bolzman; and great-grandson, Logan Bolzman.

Visitation is from 1 to 8 p.m.. Sunday at Juengel & Mellendorf Funeral Home in Sebewaing, and from 10 a.m. until the time of service Monday at the church.

The funeral service is 11 a.m. Monday at St. John Lutheran Church in Kilmanagh. Burial will take place privately at Silverlawn Cemetery in Sebewaing.

Memorial donations may be given to St. John Lutheran Church in Kilmanagh or Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America, 40550 Grand River Ave., Novi, MI, 48375.

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