

Harder, Duane S.

Duane Simeon Harder, 80, of Bay Port passed away Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010 at Brian's House of Bay City.

He was born on July 26, 1929 in Mt. Morris to the late Elmer and Ellen (Smith) Harder.

Duane and Joanne Dutcher were united in marriage on July 8, 1950 in the Bay Port United Methodist Church. He graduated from Bay Port High School in 1949. Duane served in the U.S. Army during World War II, serving in the War of Occupation in Japan.

Duane worked as a counselor for Saginaw Community Hospital, working in the field of alcohol and drugs. He was awarded the Senatorial Award for his service in 1982, and also received the highest award to a non union worker also in 1982. Duane was a member of alcoholics anonymous for 43 years of which he was a delegate for Michigan to the General Service Office in New York City. He belonged to the Civitans for several years while they lived in Florida. He was a member of the Bay Port United Methodist Church, where he was a chairman of the Board of Administration for a year, a Sunday School Teacher, and a lay minister.

He is survived by his wife, Joanne Harder of Bay Port, and their children, Joel Harder and his wife, Kristine, of Crosswell, Neil Harder and his wife, Regina, of Caseville, Mark Harder and his wife, Lisa, of Kansas, and Terese Gnagey and her husband, Alvin, of Bay Port; 18 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

Duane was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Ervin Harder; and his sisters, Ellen Hayes, Fern Birkenbach, and Margaret Bowers.

Memorial service will take place Friday, Feb. 19, 2010 at 11 a.m. in the Bay Port United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Doug Mater officiating. Cremation has taken place at Sunset Valley Crematory. A gathering of friends and family will be in the church at 9:30 a.m. until time of services at 11 a.m. on Friday

In lieu of flowers; memorials may be given to the charity of your choice.