

Bonini, James

Lt. Col. James Irving Bonini, ret., 79, of Sebewaing passed away Saturday, March 23, 2002, at St. Mary's Medical Center of Saginaw. He was born in Franklin Mine, on Nov. 1, 1922, son of the late James and Stella Pearl (Gale) Bonini. On Oct. 30, 1943, he was united in marriage to Elizabeth Bendler at College Station, Texas. She preceded him in death on Feb. 22, 1995. Mr. Bonini retired on July 1, 1970, as a Lieutenant Colonel with the United States Air Force. During the Korean conflict, he flew the F-86 Sabre fighter jet. During the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, he was a B-47 command pilot. In Vietnam, he was a command pilot for the C-130. In retirement, he continued to fly for pleasure and flew also as a stunt pilot for local air shows. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and enjoyed boating. He was also an accomplished artist and wood carver. Mr. Bonini was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sebewaing. He is survived by two sons, James O. Bonini of Conway, S.C. and Robert Bonini and his wife, Margo, of Sebewaing; three daughters, Christine Morford and her husband, Gary, of Boise, Idaho, Ruth Ann Hurst and her husband, Thomas, of Saginaw, and Charlotte Mohr and her husband, Timothy, of Saginaw; nine grandchildren; one great-grandson; two sisters, Alberta St. Andre of Lake Linden and Eleanor Weber and her husband, Bob, of Manistique; two brothers, Roy G. Bonini and his wife, Lenore, and Charles R. Bonini and his wife, Paulette, all of Lake Linden; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Carole Christine "Carrie" Morford; three sisters, Ruth Malgren, Lillian Sarazin, and F. Tully Bonini; and a brother, Albert C. Bonini. The funeral service will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, March 27, 2002, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sebewaing with the Rev. Gerald Meyer officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Visitation will be from 2 to 9 p.m. Monday and from 2 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the Dinkel-Juengel Funeral Home in Sebewaing and from 10 a.m. until the time of service Wednesday at the church. Memorials may be made to the Sebewaing Library.