

Lermont, John E.

John E. "Ham" Lermont, 80, of Harbor Beach, passed away at Harbor Beach Community Hospital with hospice care on Tuesday, October 7, 2003. Born in Harbor Beach on January 4, 1923, he was the son of the late John and Burnice (Peterson) Lermont. He was a graduate of Harbor Beach Schools in 1940 where he starred in football. John was a merchant marine, sailing on the Great Lakes for several years before entering the Army. While in the Army, he played football and traveled throughout the world, including South Africa playing organized football. On July 9, 1955, John was united in marriage to Lexie Paige in Harbor Beach. He was a retired employee of the City of Harbor Beach, working for 32 years at the waste water treatment plant and retiring in 1988 as supervisor. Ham was a volunteer fireman for 43 years for the Harbor Beach Fire Department and was an assistant chief. He was a former member of the Harbor Beach Jaycees and past president, a former member of the Masonic Lodge F & AM and Past Master. He was a member of the American Legion Post 197 of Harbor Beach. He attended the First Baptist Church and was an avid football fan of the Harbor Beach Pirates, attending games until a few weeks ago. Ham is survived by his wife, Lexie Lermont, of Harbor Beach; children, Heather Pate and her husband, Donald, of Indianapolis, Indiana, J.P. Lermont and his wife, Connie, of Harbor Beach, Harriett Talaski and her husband, Charles, of St. Clair, and Jane Smallwood and her husband, Paul, of Traverse City; seven grandchildren, Jason, John, and Kari Lermont, Allie and Rachael Talaski, and Paige and Collin Smallwood. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, October 10, 2003, in the Ramsey Funeral Home, Harbor Beach, with the Rev. Andrew Willis, pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be in the Rock Falls Cemetery. Visitation will be from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. today and from 10 a.m. until the time of the service on Friday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to Harbor Beach Fire Department and the Harbor Beach Athletic Association.