

Watson, Benjamin

Benjamin Watson, age 88, of Bad Axe, formerly of Caro, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2010 at Courtney Manor in Bad Axe, following a brief illness.

He was born June 30, 1922 in Evergreen Township in Sanilac County, the son of the late Benjamin H. and Iva (Robinson) Watson.

Ben grew up and graduated from Cass City High School with the class of 1939. He joined the U.S. Army during World War II, serving in the Aleutian Islands from 1943 until 1946. Following his discharge, he was united in marriage with the former Gladys Elaine Smith on Dec. 27, 1947 in Colwood.

He made his home with her in Caro where he was employed with the Caro Lumber Yard from 1941, for twenty-five years. He was then employed as a custodian supervisor for Caro Community Schools from 1966 until his retirement in 1985. During his retirement, Ben drove cars for the Howard Bell GMC dealership. He was an active member of the Caro United Methodist Church, serving on its building committee, as an usher and trustee and various other committees over the years.

Ben was also a 64 year member of the Caro American Legion Post No. 7. During his free time, he enjoyed being with his family and grandchildren, serving on the Tuscola County Fair Board for many years, watching the Detroit Tigers, gardening, woodworking, refinishing antiques, crossword puzzles and watching harness racing.

Left to cherish Ben's memory are his wife of over 62 years, Elaine Watson of Bad Axe; three children and their spouses, Marsha and Jim Disher of Athens, Ala., Mary Jo and Charles Mantey of Port Austin, Steven and Julie Watson of Bad Axe; eight grandchildren and their spouses, Michael and Katy Disher, Melissa and Michael Forton, Nicole and Michael Gibson, all of Madison, Ala., Katie and Ward Carter of Bad Axe, Becky Mantey of East Lansing, Timothy and Kimberly Mantey of Bay City, Matthew and Brian Watson, both of Bad Axe; seven great-grandchildren, Spencer, Lance and Jordyn Carter, Noah Mantey, Benjamin and Nicholas Forton, Jackson Disher and baby Gibson expected in February of 2011; one brother, Grant Watson of Caro and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Ben was preceded in death by two sisters, Betty Miller and Shirley Bader.

Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 13, 2010 at the Caro United Methodist Church with the Revs. Jerome K. Smith and M. Jean Love officiating. Burial with military honors, afforded by the Caro American Legion Post No. 7 and the United States Army will follow at the Indianfields Township Cemetery in Caro.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday at the Ransford Funeral Home in Caro and from 10 a.m. until the time of the service at 11 a.m. on Friday at the church.

Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorial contributions to Caro United Methodist Church or the Arthritis Foundation.

The family was assisted with these arrangements by the Ransford Funeral Home of Caro. Friends may share memories, thoughts and prayers online at www.ransfordfuneralhome.com.