

Franklin Otto Hofmeister

Franklin Otto Hofmeister, 87, was born Dec. 16, 1922, to Otto and Alma (Mueller) Hofmeister on the family farm in Sebewaing.

He went to Immanuel Lutheran School and graduated from Sebewaing High School in 1942. During High School, he was active in Future Farmers of America and played football and baseball. Immediately after graduation, he enlisted in the United States Air Corp and was trained as an airline pilot. He served in the Air Force for three years. He was based in England and flew 24 missions over Germany as commander of a B-24 Liberator. When he returned home at the close of World War II, he obtained a civilian commercial pilot's license as well as an instructors license. Frank enlisted in the Air Force Reserves and also established a flying service on land that had been secured for an airport. He taught upwards of 200 people to fly in the last 40 years. He had an excellent safety record and reputation for typical Sebewaing hospitality. As part of his Reserve activity, he served in the Korean War, Vietnam Conflict and the Pueblo Incident. He retired from the Air Force in 1982 as a Major and from the flying service in 1986, having logged several thousand hours of flying time in a variety of aircraft.

Frank was a lifetime member of Immanuel Lutheran Church. He served on the Evangelism Board and Board of Trustees. He and his wife were charter members of the Couples Club. In semi-retirement, he served as an assistant custodian for eight years. As a stained glass artist, he made hundreds of glass crosses, which were given to members of Immanuel as they graduated from High School. Frank created the large stained glass windows which are in the Great Room. He was devoted to his Lord and the Church where he grew up.

His love of flying was nearly matched by his love for baseball and working with young people. His baseball coaching experience included all ages from Little League through American Legion league for nearly 20 years. Frank was awarded the Richard E. Denner award in 1971-72 for his work with the youth. He was chosen coach of the year in 1985 and also chosen Friend of Youth, with his wife, by the Unionville-Sebewaing Area School District in 1987.

An avid gardener, Frank loved to raise an abundance of produce and share with friends and neighbors. Frank served as an Adjunct of American Legion Post 293 for many years and was a member of the Sebewaing VFW.

Frank and Joan Hobkirk were married Dec. 31, 1943 in Liberal, Kan.

Hofmeister is survived by his wife, Joan, two daughters and two sons, Connie (Jim) Schweigert of Minneapolis, Frank II (Barbara Schnepf) of Buena Vista, Colo., Donna (Allen) Poellet of Frankenmuth, and Kurt (Kaye Vogel) of Bay City; Nine grandchildren, Jeffrey Schweigert, Julie (Wayne) Thebeau, Michael (Heidi) Schweigert, Trista (Sean) Poellet Hudson, Mindy (Jason) Poellet Worden, Libby (Jim) Poellet Cody, Aaron Hofmeister, Kerry and Kendra Hofmeister; and eleven

great-grandchildren. Also one brother-in-law, Jeff Grigg of Imlay City; and several nieces and nephews.

He was pre-deceased by his parents; sisters, Margaret Schwab, Lorna Osborne Smith and Adeline Grigg; brothers, Raymond and Donald; and a nephew, Robert.

Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 24, 2010 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sebewaing.

Visitation will be from 1 to 9 p.m. Thursday at Juengel & Mellendorf Funeral Home, Sebewaing.

Burial will take place at Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery in Sebewaing.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church.