

James Edward Beitler

(May 3, 1920 - November 6, 2009)

James Edward Beitler, Sr., 89, of Berne, passed away on Friday, November 6, 2009, at Adams Memorial Hospital.

Born May 3, 1920, he was the son of Hugo and Gertrude (Hirschy) Beitler. A graduate of Berne High School, he served in the U.S. Army Special Forces from 1942-1946. He was employed by the U.S. Post Office for 39 years and worked at Moser Motor Sales for 10 years.



Jim and his wife of 68 years, Evelyn, loved to travel. Some of the places they enjoyed the most were locations in South America, Europe, Israel, Egypt, Alaska, and Hawaii. They also visited all of the 48 continental states and much of Canada. After their retirement in 1985, Jim and Evelyn enjoyed spending the winter months in Marco Island, Florida. Wanting to improve the Berne community, Jim helped to raise money to build the South Adams Senior Center. He also raised money to build the bird sanctuary at Swiss Heritage Village.

During their early retirement years, Jim and Evelyn embroidered 14 quilts for their children and grandchildren. They gave these to their family at their 50th wedding anniversary in 1991.

Jim's faith was of utmost importance to him, and he loved to share the joy of his commitment with family and friends. He was a member of the First Missionary Church and served as Sunday School superintendent, church board member, Sunday School teacher, and was a member of the adult choir. As a 60-year member of the Gideons International, he spoke frequently in area churches to raise money for worldwide Bible distribution and also handed out New Testaments in area schools for many years.

An engaging storyteller, Jim loved to regale those around him with tales from years past. He never knew a stranger and welcomed young and old into his circle of friends. Grateful to the end, Jim felt his life had been richly blessed, and he looked forward to being welcomed into the heavenly fold.

Jim is survived by his wife, Evelyn (Habegger); daughter, Judy (Bart) Sprunger of Indianapolis, sons Jim, Jr. (Melissa) of Berne, and Alan of Washington, D.C.; ten grandchildren Andrew (Tracy) Sprunger, Matthew (Shannon) Sprunger, Jim (Brita) Beitler III, Genevieve Beitler, Rachel Moore-Beitler, Ashley Beitler, and David Moore-Beitler; one great-grandchild, Benjamin Park Sprunger; two brothers, Richard (Margaret) and Calvin (Alberta). He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Geraldine, and his brothers Chester and Roger.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at the First Missionary Church in Berne with Rev. Kris McPherson officiating. Interment will follow at the M.R.E. Cemetery of rural Berne. The pallbearers are Jim's grandchildren: Andrew, Tracy, Matthew, and Shannon Sprunger, Jim III, Brita, Genevieve, and Ashley Beitler, Rachel and David Moore-Beitler. Friends and family will be received from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. Monday, November 9 at Swiss Village.

Gifts in Jim's memory can be given to Gideons International or the Swiss Village Samaritan Fund.

Yager-Kirchhofer Funeral Home online obit (accessed 5/6/2013)