

Elmer L. "Cotton" Rupe, 73, 603 S. Bridge St., Portland, died at his home early today following an extended illness. Arrangements are pending at Portland Chapel of Williamson and Spencer Funeral Home.

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Services for Elmer L. "Cotton" Rupe, 73, 603 S. Bridge St., Portland, are set for 11 a.m. Saturday in the Williamson and Spencer Funeral Home with Bruce Phillips officiating. Burial will be in Green Park Cemetery. Rupe died Wednesday at his home following an extended illness.

He retired in 1979 from the Portland Forge where he worked 36 years.

Born Aug. 14, 1923, in Jay County, he was the son of Russell M. and Inez L. (Walter) Rupe. He was married July 3, 1967, to Ruth I. Derringer, who died May 12, 1993.

Rupe was a 1940 graduate of I.P. Gray High School and was a World War II Army veteran. He was a member of American Legion Post 211, Portland Eagles, Portland Moose Lodge, and DAV of Portland and VFW of Fort Recovery.

Surviving are one son, Nick Rupe, O'Brien, Fla.; one daughter Michele Lee, Homestead, Ohio; three step sons, Jimmy Derringer, Fort Recovery, Tommy J. Derringer, Montpelier, and Bobby Derringer, Dunkirk; three step-daughters Mrs. Mac (Patty Jo) Kelly, Portland, Mrs. Nancy Walden, Indianapolis, and Mrs. Peggy Montgomery, Indianapolis; one brother Melvin Rupe, RR3, Portland, four grandchildren; one great-granddaughter.

Friends may call at the funeral home from 3 to 8 p.m. Friday and on hour prior to services Saturday.

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