



Grover Clifford Flesher

May 26, 1920 - May 13, 2008

SOUTH BEND - Grover Clifford Flesher, the son of Rollie Ray and Dawna (Whaley) Flesher, was born on May 26, 1920, in Jay County, Indiana. At an early age he developed a dislike for his first name, and thereafter was known by everyone as Cliff. He had a happy life growing up on the family farm with his siblings, Nova, Aloma and Wayne. Cliff attended Redkey School and graduated from Governor I.P. Gray School in 1938. While in high school he played baseball, was captain of the basketball team and ranked 4th academically in his class. He went on to attend Indiana Business College in Muncie, Indiana, after which he worked at Central Indiana Gas Company for a short while. Cliff enlisted in the U.S. Navy in November 1941. He served his country in the Navy Officer Recruiting Offices at Chicago, Camp Perry, VA and Lido Beach, NY. After the war ended and he was released from service, he started working for Associates Investment Company in South Bend, IN. He was a loyal employee of Associates and two of its subsidiaries, EMMCO and Capitol Life for 31 years. Cliff married Wanda Mock on May 22, 1943 in South Bend after a four-year courtship. They were planning to celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary in 2008, but on April 18 Cliff suffered a head injury, with complications that led to his death on May 13. Cliff is survived by his wife, Wanda; two daughters, Shirley (Robert) Peterson of Lakeville and Sherlyn Flesher of Coralville, IA; a son, Clifford E. Flesher of Mishawka; sister, Aloma Nell Whitesell of Dunkirk, IN; four granddaughters, Gail Peterson of Indianapolis, Sara (Corey) Schrader of Phoenix, AZ, Kimberly (Abel) Orelove of Plainfield, IL, and Bethany Flesher of Indianapolis; sisters-in-law, Kathryn Flesher of Ridgeville, IN and Barbara Mock of Bolingbrook, IL; and brother-in-law, Gene (Beverly Mock of Cassopolis, MI; as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins. A sister, Nova (Farol) Selvey; brother A. Wayne Flesher; and brother-in-law, Dana Mock preceded him in death. Cliff's four granddaughters were the light of his life. Cliff teased Gail about being his #1 granddaughter, since she was the first-born. Cliff loved to make people smile, and to that end, he told a lot of pretty corny jokes. One of his favorite sayings was "I don't care what you call me, as long as you keep calling." Quite frequently, people would find themselves laughing at Cliff's bad jokes, because his smile was absolutely infectious, and because they knew how happy it would make him to make them happy. Cliff was a member of Elks #235 and he and Wanda enjoyed many events there over the years. He had a great love for the type of farm country in which he grew up and loved animals, especially horses. Cliff loved basketball and baseball (Especially the White Sox), and was an avid Notre Dame fan. Since 1971, he and Wanda have held season tickets to Notre Dame Basketball. Cliff was always there to help with Boy Scouts and summer baseball and attended many football and basketball games while his kids were in school. And to be sure, his granddaughters' Riley swim meets were "must see" events. Cliff loved to drive, and would use almost any excuse to take a trip. When one of his granddaughters wanted to see the Duke University Campus, he was ready and

willing to make the journey. Over the years, Cliff and Wanda took countless driving trips, visiting 46 states. They frequently visited family in Jay County and other places, and took in most of the major historical and scenic sites in the U.S. including Yellowstone, The Grand Canyon, several presidential libraries, many battlefields and the Baseball Hall of Fame. For more than 20 years, Cliff and Wanda spent a large part of the winter in Florida, where Cliff especially enjoyed the warm weather and long walks on the beach. While at home in South Bend or on a trip, Cliff knew how to find a good restaurant. He always had bread with dinner, and dearly loved a good meal, especially if it included white zinfandel wine and ended with a piece of pie. Perhaps because of his training as an accountant, Cliff paid extraordinary attention to detail and liked to know that things were "squared away." Cliff was always well-dressed and took pride in a neat appearance. He was a gentleman who was always polite and would always walk his guests to and from the door, even in later years when walking was difficult for him. He loved his family more than anything, and they all feel lucky to have been a part of his family. Funeral services will be held at noon today May 17 in the Welsheimer Family Funeral Home, 521 N. William St., South Bend, with Rev. James Campbell officiating. Graveside services will be held at 4:30 p.m. today at Hill Crest Cemetery, Redkey, IN. Family and friends may leave e-mail condolences at welshfh@yahoo.com.

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