

Harry Darrell Landess, 88, of Athens, was received into the loving arms of his Savior on Sunday, July 10, 2011, after a short illness.

A native of New Mt. Pleasant, Ind., he was born Dec. 11, 1922, and was a resident of Athens since 1998. He was a son of the late Charlie Terry and Ethel Dorothy Lee Landess, and was preceded in death by a son, Robert Kent Landess; a grandson, Kristopher Kent Landess; special father-in-law and mother-in-law, Lafe and Etta Rees; two brothers, Leo Wilson Landess and Lawrence Grissom; and a sister, Ida May Rigel.

He was a great-nephew of General Robert E. Lee and was always interested in the history of our great country and of Redkey's history. In 1998, upon his retirement, he and his wife, Carol, moved to Athens to be near his granddaughter and her loving family, being a big part of his two oldest great-grandsons' lives. He attended and held a membership with the Athens Christian Church. While living and working in Redkey, Ind. (Jay County), he was the custodian for the Redkey Public School and the Jay County School System from 1950 until 1982, retiring from Jay County Schools in 1982. He then moved to Florida where he continued as a custodian with the St. Lucie County School System in Ft. Pierce, Fla., until 1996, where he retired after 46 years of service within the two school Systems.

While living in Redkey, he also worked part-time at the Redkey Tomato Factory from his youth until the factory closed in the 1960s. He also worked at Shambarger's Restaurant. He painted houses indoors and outside and remodeled houses. While working and living in Redkey and Jay County, Ind., he was the Redkey Boy Scout Master, bringing four young boys to become Eagle Scouts, including his own two sons in 1965 and helping many others in ways no other could have. He became a member of the Boy Scouts Order of the Arrow and worked extensively with the Northeast Indiana LumberLost District and also the Gulf Stream Council of the Boy Scouts in Florida.

He was loved and will be sorely missed by family, friends and all who knew or met him, as he influenced many lives. With sweet sorrow we say, "'Til we meet again, with sweet memories, Your Loving Family."

Survivors include his loving wife of 63 years, Carol Rees Landess of Athens; one daughter, Paula Kaye Whitney and her husband, Don, of Athens; one son, Ronald Kris Landess of Redkey, Ind.; one granddaughter, Doretta Kaye Striker and her husband, Barry, of Athens; one grandson, Ronald Kris Landess II and his wife, Trang, of Fremont, Calif.; three great-grandsons, Kyle Lee Striker and Ryan Kristopher Striker, both of Athens, and Alexander Nguyen Landess of Fremont, Calif.; two brothers, Glen Landess and his wife, Peggy, of Lynn, Mass., and a very special brother and sister-in-law, Kenneth and Jane Landess of Marietta, Ga.; two sisters, Mabel Nuckles and her husband, Gorge, of Matthews, Ind., and Mary Helen Sandefur of Madisonville, Ky.; and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Landess will be returned to his beloved hometown of Redkey, Ind., for funeral services by M.J.S.

Mortuaries, Redkey Chapel, 107 S. Meridian St., Redkey, IN 47373.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Amedisys Hospice, 614 Congress Parkway N., Athens, TN 37303 - "the most wonderful and caring organization we have ever worked with" - or any hospice of choice.

Local arrangements by Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home of Athens.

**Contributed by Glenda Rowland**