



**Kavanagh, John Edward 'Bud'**

**763<sup>rd</sup> Tank BN**



John Edward "Bud" Kavanagh, 90, of Wykoff, passed away Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010, in the early morning, following a lengthy illness.

Bud was born in Joplin, Mo., on June 13, 1920, to Lillian and Lloyd Kavanagh. In 1924 Bud moved to the Wykoff area with his mother and sister, Patricia, and lived at his maternal grandparents' farm at the bottom of Turner Hill near Cherry Grove. As a teenager Bud picked sweet corn by hand, up to 10 tons a day, for Reed-Murdoch of Rochester. In the mid-late 1930s, Bud hand-dug many of the holes for the telephone company and REA. Bud was a sportsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing and trapping, and was a dedicated Twins fan, rarely missing a game.

Bud served his country in WWII for 42 months, starting in Pearl Harbor and ending with preparation for the Japanese mainland invasion. As a mechanic of the 763rd Battalion, he was on the first wave of invasion of Okinawa and Mindanao. He was also involved with the liberation of a Japanese POW camp.

Bud returned home from WWII Nov. 22, 1945. The following day, Bud returned to work at the dealership he had begun working at in 1938, prior to the war. He purchased into the dealership with his stepfather, Harry Opsall, with his wages from the war, and the dealership became Opsall-Kavanagh Motors, a Chrysler dealership. Bud downsized his company in 1992 to selling used vehicles and a mechanic shop. Opsall-Kavanagh Motors continues to operate to this day.

Bud and his best friend and soul mate, Elaine Bacon, met on their first day of school in their one-room country school. Together, they were avid 1940s Ballroom, Big Band, and Swing dancers. They enjoyed spending time together, as well as with family and friends. Their presence together made any gathering memorable.

His father Lloyd Kavanagh, mother Lillian, stepfather Harry Opsall, sister Patricia (Kavanagh) Hedges, and great nephew Chris Thompson preceded Bud in death. He is survived by his best friend and soul mate, Elaine Bacon. In addition, Bud is survived by his four nieces, Diana (Vernon) Thompson of Ostrander, Judith (Richard) Thompson of Wykoff, Lynda Hyberger of Rochester, and Sara (Michael) Arena of Rochester; two nephews, Gerald (Shirley) Hedges and Kevin Hedges, both of Island Lake, Ill.; and seven great-nephews, one great-niece and several great-great-nephews and nieces.

There will be no reviewal as Bud donated his body to Mayo Medical Center for medical science. Friends and family may visit Wednesday at the Community Hall in Wykoff from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. In addition, a memorial service for Bud will be at the United Methodist Church in Wykoff on Thursday, Sept. 2 at 2 p.m.; friends may call at 1 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are requested to the United Methodist Church of Wykoff or the Salvation Army.

Obituary and photo from Rochester Post Bulletin, Aug. 31, 2010

