



Malkewitz, Ernest Jr.

Co M 381<sup>st</sup> Infantry

Mr. Ernest William Malkewitz, Jr. of Grand Rapids, Michigan, age 91, passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of Monday, December 19, 2016. He was born to Ernest, Sr. and Ava (Watkins) Malkewitz on Friday, July 17, 1925, in Chicago, Illinois. Ernest was a proud Boy Scout, remaining active for over seventy-five years, earning the Silver Beaver Award. He began as a Cub Scout in 1934, and received his Eagle badge in 1943.

He graduated East Grand Rapids High School in that same year, then went on to graduate from Michigan State University with a degree in civil engineering. At nineteen years of age, Ernest proudly and courageously served his flag and country in the United States Army during World War II, in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater. He was decorated with two Bronze Star medals, and Philippian Liberation Medal. He was a part of 96th Infantry Division known as the Deadeyes. Ernest was one of nineteen who survived in his company at Okinawa and received the Presidential Citation.

Ernest went on to work for the Michigan Department of Transportation as a project engineer and retired after thirty-eight years and eight months of service. He was a charter member of both the Aldersgate United Methodist Church and Northeast Grand Rapids Lion's Club. Ernest and Lorraine were very active at Porter Hills it was their community, their family, their home.

Ernest is survived by his loving children, Steven (Kathy) Malkewitz, Susan Vantrees; step-sons Craig (Diane) Wisniewski and Brad (Victoria) Wisniewski; adored grandchildren Amanda (Brad) Campbell, Michael (Desiree) Malkewitz, Corrie (Michael) Broght, John Vantrees, Erica (Dan) Winkel, Patrick Schaffer, and Keith Schaffer, Mark (JoAnn) Wisniewski, Dr. Lisa (David) Dreisingmeyer; eight great grandchildren; special niece Wendy (Dick) Rand; and numerous nieces, nephews, and other beloved members of the Malkewitz and Wisniewski families. He was preceded in death by his wife of eighteen years, Norma Lorraine Malkewitz, just days ago, on Friday, December 16, 2016; wife of forty-eight years, Mary Jean (Schreuder) on October 8, 1997; son-in-law David Vantrees; brothers John, Carl, and James

Malkewitz. There will be time of visitation from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. and from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 22, 2016, at Pederson Funeral Home, 127 N. Monroe Street NE, Rockford, Michigan 49341.

A memorial service to celebrate the lives Ernest and Lorraine will be held Wednesday, January 4, 2016, at 11 o'clock in the Meeting House at Porter Hills Village, 3600 Fulton Street E., Grand Rapids, MI 49546. Those wishing to offer expressions of sympathy are encouraged to make a memorial contribution to Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 4301 Ambrose Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525; or to The Boys Scouts of America, 3213 Walker Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49544.