



Kopp, Ralph Gustave Edwin

Stratford, WI

362nd Field Artillery Batt

Ralph Gustave Edwin Kopp, age 91 formerly of Stratford passed away peacefully on Friday, May 6, 2011, at Ministry St Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield, with his family by his side. Funeral services will be held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in McMillan at Noon on Wednesday, May 11, 2011. A time of visitation will be held from 10:00AM until service time at the Church on Wednesday. The Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home in Marshfield is assisting the family with arrangements.

Ralph was born June 11, 1919 in Chicago, IL the son of Gustav and Pauline (Bleich) Kopp. His family moved to the Stratford area, where he attended the Little Rose Community School. Ralph began working with his brother, Erich, in the lumber camps in Westboro and Ogema. Ralph went on to proudly serve in the U.S. Army from 1941-1945 during WWII, serving in the 96th infantry division. This division was know as the "Dead Eyes" and was awarded a Presidential Citation. When Ralph was sent to Camp Adair in Corvallis, Oregon he was in the Cadré. He was involved in the invasion of Leyte and Okinawa. While serving overseas Ralph was reunited with one of his brothers, Erich.

On April 11, 1942, he was united in marriage to the former Ruth Matthes in Reno, Nevada. The couple owned and operated a dairy farm in the Stratford area. In addition to farming Ralph worked as a carpenter for several mobile home manufacturers and also became a sewing room foreman for Modern Sleep Products of Marshfield.

"Dad" enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing sheephead and watching the Green Bay Packers. His hobbies included collecting pens, pencils, and hats. In retirement Ralph also enjoyed traveling with his wife to 15 Army Reunions throughout the United States. More than anything Ralph enjoyed time spent with his family.

Ralph is lovingly survived by his wife, Ruth of Stratford; and children, Diane (Ralph) Zirbel of Marshfield, Ellen (Ronald) Maurer of Marshfield, Russell (Debra) Kopp of Minocqua, Daniel (Carol) Kopp of Hazel Green, WI, Bruce (Donna) Kopp of Lake Mills, WI, John (Lynne) Kopp of Grafton, WI, Rachel (Lee) Charron of Brentwood, CA, Nancy Kopp of Stratford, and Richard (Khae) Kopp of Dublin, CA. He is further survived by his grandchildren, Paul (Kelly) Zirbel, Todd Maurer and fiancé Michelle Hanson, Tara (Morgan) Reynolds, Brittney (Sam) Parks, Timm (Sheila) Kopp, Brian Kopp, Jason Kopp, Noah (Loni) Kopp, Benjamin (Lisa) Kopp, Madeline (Brad) Wolters, Matthew Kopp, Lee Michael (Mara) Charron, Daniel Oehmichen Jr., Michael (Tiffany) Oehmichen, Lisa Oehmichen, Robin Oehmichen, Linda (Kenny) Saefong, Brenda Saefong, and Sandi Saefong; and great-grandchildren, Alex and Olivia Zirbel, Bailey and Lizzie Hanson, Isabella Maurer, David, Faith, Matthew, and Jonathan Reynolds, Benjamin, Anna, Nathan, and Audrey Parks, Austin, Kimberly, Levi, Havanna, and Peter Kopp, Cassius Charron, Joshua and Kendall Saefong, and Leyah Nguyen. As well as many other relatives and friends. He will truly be missed. Besides his parents, Gustav and Pauline, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Arthur, Arnold, Erich "Aggie", Evelyn, and Clarence "Shorty".