

NO PHOTO Nicholson, Paul Joseph

Abilene, KS

381st Inf Co H

ABILENE -- Paul Joseph Nicholson, age 97, passed away Wednesday, March 25, in Abilene. He was born September 18, 1911, near Chapman, the only child of Michael and Sarah (Clennan) Nicholson. He attended school in Abilene and Chapman, living his whole life in the area with the exception of the four years he served in WWII. At the age of 3 years, his mother died in childbirth. At the age of 15, his father died with cancer, and from that date on, he made his home with his aunt Margaret Clennan until his marriage after returning from the European Theater in WWII.

He received his early church instruction at St. Michael's Catholic Church at Chapman, later transferring his membership to St. Andrews in Abilene. Until his induction into the Armed Forces, he was employed at Belle Springs Creamery Co. as head cheese maker. He was a Veteran of World War II, reporting for active service on October 12, 1942, assigned to the 96th Division, 381st Infantry, where he spent the next four years, which included overseas duty at Omaha Beach and the Battle of the Bulge in the European Theater, where he served with the 290th Medical Detachment, receiving his discharge on March 6, 1946. He was awarded two Bronze Medals during his tenure of service.

When returning home to Abilene, he was employed by the Abilene Fire Department for five years, at which time he transferred to the Fort Riley Fire Department, where he later retired with 26 years of service. He was a diligent and dependable worker, receiving many citations and promotions. He not only was a top fireman and took his work very seriously, but taught all military and civilian personnel in First Aid and Rescue during his tenure of service. He was also a qualified CPR instructor as well.

He was a member of the Abilene Elks Lodge No. 1675 and the National Elks Foundation, the Moose Lodge No. 721, Salina, a life member of the Disabled Veterans of Salina and the American Legion Post 37 of Abilene, a life member and Past Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3279, Abilene, and to date was a member of the 96th Infantry Division Association. He was a Charter Member and Officer in the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, the Wells Lions Club and a member of the Dickinson County Historical Society.

On April 15, 1948, he was married to Mildred Jones Rogers, in Abilene. She preceded him in death March 6, 2006. Other survivors include a stepson, Charles LaVerne Rogers and his

wife Jerry; a stepdaughter, Verla Dawn Clark; four step grandchildren; and two step great-grandchildren; together with other relatives and friends.

He was a wonderful husband and a kind, generous and loving stepfather. He loved his home and took great pride in his lawn and flowers and the care of his home. He and his wife loved to travel and together lived their lives helping others less fortunate. He was a devout member of his church to which he remained humble and faithful throughout his entire life. He was an example to all who knew him.

Funeral services will be held 10 a.m. Saturday, March 28, from the St. Andrews Catholic Church with Father Henry Baxa officiating. Entombment will follow in the Roselawn Mausoleum in Salina. A parish rosary will be recited at 6 p.m. Friday evening, March 27, from the Danner Funeral Home, 501 N. Buckeye, Abilene. The family suggests memorial contributions in his memory be given to the St. Andrews Catholic Church. They may be left at or sent in care of the Danner Funeral Home, P.O. Box 758, Abilene, KS 67410, or left at the church the day of the service.