



## Ralph "Jack" Dilday

January 4, 1921 - January 13, 2008

Ralph Dilday -- Bradley Ralph E. "Jack" Dilday, 87, of Bradley, died Sunday (Jan. 13, 2008) at the University of Chicago Hospital. Memorial visitation will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday with a brief memorial at 6:30 p.m. at the Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, west Kankakee, where cremation rites have been accorded. The Rev. H.C. Sheets of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Kankakee, will officiate. Interment will be in Buchanan Cemetery, Rockwood. Memorials may be made to the University of Chicago Hospital. Mr. Dilday was born Jan. 4, 1921, the oldest of nine children of George "Cal" Dilday and Mary Marjorie "Marge" Krug in Jackson County. As a young man, he worked for the Historical Records Survey of the WPA at Southern Illinois University Library at Carbondale, before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1942. His battles and campaigns include Tunisian, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, and the Northern Apennines. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with four Bronze Battle Stars, five Overseas Service bars, one Service Stripe, and a Bronze Service Arrowhead. Mr. Dilday served until Aug. 31, 1945. Mr. Dilday worked as a mechanic for Triangle Construction in Kankakee for many years before his retirement. He then continued in a consultant capacity for Douglas Crane and Acevedo Brothers Guns and Restoration. Mr. Dilday married the former Juanita M. Bousey, Aug. 25, 1945, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Kankakee. She died in October 2000. He is survived by children, Marjorie (Michael) Legris of Bradley, Russell (Shari) Dilday of St. Anne, Stanley (Elizabeth) Dilday of Marissa, George of

Bradley; brothers, Woodrow (June) Dilday of Granite City and George (Charlotte) Dilday of Venice; 10 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren; special friend, Dorothy Boykin. He was predeceased by an infant daughter, Jeanne; both parents; brothers, Calvin, Russell, and Bill Dilday; and sisters, Marie Jeanquenant, Noni Wall, and Opel Kaiser; and by five brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law. He loved hunting, fishing, gardening, gunsmithing and the St. Louis Cardinals. He believed in a strict work ethic, telling the truth, staying out of debt, paying your bills promptly, helping those with less, buying American, wearing good shoes, and the benefits of laughter. His measure of success was not how many things he could accumulate but how little he would be burdened with at the end. He knew how to be a good friend, an obedient son, a devoted brother and a dad who was always there. He belonged to no clubs, lodges, fraternal organizations or community associations except the Teamsters, and he liked it that way. He belonged to a very rare and dying breed of men, and we are not likely to see his kind again.

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Album



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - December 07, 2010 at 02:43 PM



“ Russ, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your dad. I remember meeting you and your dad down at Fetlas and the Anshutz that I helped him purchase. Jack struck me as a typical member of that "greatest generation", quiet self assured and serious of mind. I know we are all diminished by the ever dwindling number of this group. I wonder if we will ever see their brand of bravery and strength again in this country. My own dad passed over a year ago and I still want to pick up the phone and call him to ask a question about old railroad friends and places. I just feel he is still around. A friend told me, "that not one day will pass without you thinking of your dad", I see now that he is right. I guess that's a wonderful legacy. That is how our parents live on.##imported-begin##RL Johnson##imported-end##

January 14, 2008 at 04:20 PM

DJ

Wes and Russ,  
We used to coonhunt together with Gary McDowell. I remember your father well, he painted my 47 Chevy for me. He was a great soft spoken man. It's Memorial Day and I always think of your family. Russ when I was drafted in 1969 Russ I believe you may have been a medic in the Army and suggested I get into the x ray field because they needed electricity and it would keep me out of the jungle. Thank you.

dave janczak - May 27, 2024 at 02:08 PM



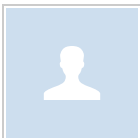
“ My thoughts are with you##imported-begin##Carolyn Trombley Mills##imported-end##

January 14, 2008 at 04:20 PM



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January 14, 2008 at 04:20 PM



“ I've been a friend and co-worker of Mr. Dilday's son Russel for 21 years, as well as that of his Grandson Scott.<br><br><br><br>I'd like to say that from what I know of these two gentlemen, and from their accounts, that Mr. Ralph Dilday was one heck of a man. ĩ½He was a staunch supporter of American values, especially in regards to work ethic and a respectful use of our country's resources. ĩ½He passed down the best of an American's traditions; those of a soldier, hunter, fisherman, farmer, tradesman, and craftsman.<br><br><br><br>Although I never met Mr. Dilday, I was honored by his gracious generosity of the fresh garden vegetables he toiled to grow, which Russ brought in for the fellas on the railroad to share...and which were beautiful, tasty, and abundant enough for me to also share with my own extended family. ĩ½<br><br><br><br>This was a man who lived well, and from what I can tell, remains an expression of God's Divine Purpose and Love through the way he lived, and the way he'll be remembered.<br><br><br><br>Sincerely,<br><br><br><br>Glen Steven Johnson<br><br>Valparaiso, Indiana##imported-begin##Glen S. Johnson##imported-end##

January 14, 2008 at 04:20 PM



“ Marge, Mike, Amy & Amanda, <br><br>Your family has our heartfelt <br><br>sympathy for your loss. Helen, <br><br>Paul, Angie & Drew Haigh, Kelly & Brian, <br><br>and Julene & Greg Sobol. <br><br>##imported-begin## Paul & Helen Lee ##imported-end##

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January 14, 2008 at 04:20 PM