Theodore A. Tusinski

March 12, 1927 - October 13, 2023

Theodore “Ted” A. Tusinski, age 96½ of Bradley, passed away Friday, October 13, 2023, at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee. He was born March 12, 1927, in Bradley, the son of Wicenty “Vincent” and Stanislawa “Stella” (Naworska) Tusinski. Ted married Theresa Sadowski June 12, 1948, at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Bradley. She preceded him in death in 2002, just shy of 54 years of marriage.

Early on, Ted entered the workforce at the age of 14 setting pins at the Dandelles Bowling Alley. Ted, being hardworking and skilled, would take on any necessary employment to support his family.

Ted served in the US Navy during World War II in the Pacific Theater attached to the Motor Torpedo Squadron 7th Fleet, which included the USS Hilo (AGP) and the USS Portunus (AGP). He later transferred to the USS Markab (AD-21), a destroyer tender, as Radioman 1st Class. Ted was renowned by his shipmates for being one of the fastest morse code radio telegraph operators. He completed his tour of duty aboard the destroyer USS Perry (DD-844) on a good will tour of postwar Europe. This included touring 31 cities in 18 countries.

After returning home from the war, Ted was an electrician in the maintenance department from 1947-1974, during the reign of American Marietta, Martin Marietta, and eventually the Chemical Coatings Division of Mobil Chemical Corporation in Kankakee. From 1964-1974, he served as Local Union President of Steelworkers Local 14728. In addition, Ted operated his own

repair business specializing in TV repairs and other household appliances. Beginning in 1984, Ted was employed by The Valspar Corporation as a corporate senior personnel advisor, operating from the Kankakee facility until 1992, when he retired to care for his wife Theresa, who was fighting breast cancer. Prior to 1984, the Kankakee facility was owned by the Chemical Coatings Division of Mobil Chemical Corporation, where he served as Employee Relations Manager from 1974-1984. He was a member of the American Society for Personnel Administration. After Ted's retirement in 1992, he continued to serve as a labor relations consultant for The Valspar Corporation.

Ted is credited with arranging the trip in 1975 to Mobil's Joliet Refinery for 21 members of the Kankakee Fire Department to learn how to fight gasoline fires.

Ted is a lifetime member of the American Legion, the VFW, and the Loyal Order of Moose. He was also a member of PT Boats, Inc., supporting the preservation of World War II PT boats, bases, and destroyer tenders' history. Ted loved supporting and attending his naval reunions, which included the USS Markab and USS Perry.

Ted loved and took pride in his yearly garden. He immersed himself in its care and nurturing to ensure it sufficiently provided for family and friends. Ted was an avid baker, being known for making the best pumpkin, cherry, and apple pies. His homemade breads were beyond anything available in any store.

Ted was a loyal Chicago Cubs fan ever since he could throw a ball. He held season tickets for 39 years. Ted never once lost faith in his Cubs. On the 32nd year, November 3, 2016, the Cubs rewarded him with a World Series victory. In the words of Harry Caray, "Holy Cow!" Ted was so elated to have experienced this during his lifetime.

Ted enjoyed bowling for many years as a member of the Northside AC Bowling League.

A dream came true July 11, 2008, when Ted was fortunate to participate in the inaugural "Honor Flight Chicago" to Washington D.C. to visit the World War II Memorial. Ted was also instrumental in ensuring a memorial brick was placed

on behalf of the USS Markab at the World War II Memorial Museum in San Antonio, Texas, designing the brick himself.

Ted was a parishioner of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Bradley.

Surviving are two sons, Steven Tusinski of Manteno, Lawrence (Larry) Tusinski of Bradley, one daughter and son-in-law, Judy (David) Grumish of Champaign; eight grandchildren, Michelle (Jack) Prichard, Heather (Jeffrey) Hubert, Jennifer (Ron) Thornton, Christine Rogers, Ryan (Kensey) Grumish, Eric Grumish, Renee (Michael) Lacine, Emily Grumish; Nine great grandchildren, Jordan Thornton, Schyler Prichard, Kody (Alexis Nelson) Kohler, Tyler (Nich) Goodrich, Kory Rogers, Sophia Hubert, Troy Hubert, Theodore “Teddy” Grumish, Lucas Lacine; and one great-great grandchild, Rilynn Kohler; a sister-in-law Elnora Tusinski; several nieces and nephews; and longtime special friend, Rita O’Connor of Irwin.

Ted is preceded in death by his wife Theresa Tusinski; his parents Vincent and Stella Tusinski; his two brothers Stephen Tusinski and Joseph Tusinski; and one sister, Victoria Harris.

Family and faith were of utmost importance to Ted. He was a beacon of love, respect, kindness, and devotion to all, serving as our moral compass throughout his entire lifetime.

Visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at the Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes of Bourbonnais. A funeral mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, October 19, 2023, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bradley. Interment will follow in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Kankakee.

Memorials may be made in honor of Ted to charities of the family’s choice.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

2000 E. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **18**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Mass

OCT **19**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
211 N. Center Street
Bradley, IL 60915
(815) 939-3573
http://www.stjosephbradley.org

Tribute Wall

UA

The following prayer will be read aloud during the USS Perry Reunion 2024:

The tides of life have ebbed for our shipmate, and we, fellow members of the United States Navy, gather here to honor his memory, our shipmate, of the USS Perry who served well.

Our Lord has called our shipmate, to sail with Him in eternally calm waters – forever free from the storms and tempests of mortal life.

We honor and cherish the memory of our shipmates, but we do not mourn for them – for they have found refuge in the great harbor of eternal peace. Rather, it is for ourselves that we mourn; for our good friends, and shipmates have slipped their moorings in the night and is no longer among us. We will miss their hand on the helm. We will miss their shoulder next to ours. We will miss their commitment to God, country and sons and daughters as we meet the storm and strife of life.

We of the USS Perry mourn our loss, but we are consoled by the abiding faith that when the final watch changes for us, and we too cross the bar, our shipmates, love ones and friends will be waiting to guide us into safe anchorage. Amen

In the presence of those who served aboard the USS Perry DD-844, a United States flag was folded with honors and a single bell will be rung for:

Theodore A. Tusinski, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend and shipmate, who served aboard the USS Perry DD-844 during 1946 as a Radioman First Class Petty Officer , United States Navy

From all of us, USS Perry DD-844, May God bless the family of Ted Tusinski

USS Perry Association - December 13, 2023 at 08:28 AM

CB

Cathy Beine lit a candle in memory of Theodore A. Tusinski

Cathy Beine - October 18, 2023 at 08:01 PM

CB

So sorry to hear about his passing. He was such a great guy and of course enjoyed his calendars (Larry will understand this).

My deepest condolences to the family...

Cathy Beine - October 18, 2023 at 08:07 PM

PA

Paul sent a virtual gift in memory of Theodore A. Tusinski

paul - October 17, 2023 at 01:49 AM

MM

To the family of Ted Tusinski I extent my heartfelt sympathy, thoughts and prayer's. Ted enjoyed every day of his life. He is a very special and true friend. Rest in peace.
Marie Marsalli

Marie Marsalli - October 16, 2023 at 09:04 PM

JG

Thank you Marie

Judy Grumish - October 18, 2023 at 04:34 AM

SJ

Sue Jarvis lit a candle in memory of Theodore A. Tusinski

Sue Jarvis - October 16, 2023 at 06:25 PM

TM

Tom Mallaney lit a candle in memory of Theodore A. Tusinski

Tom Mallaney - October 15, 2023 at 04:00 PM

MR

I have many fond memories of "Uncle Ted". He seemed always ready to discuss military matters and family memories. One of our last discussions included a review of his favorite Polish dishes. He was always welcoming, friendly, and engaging. Ted will be sorely missed. Many thoughts and prayers to his family.

Mike Rattin - October 15, 2023 at 03:58 PM

JG

Thank you Michael. That was very sweet. Your Uncle Ted always looked forward to your visits.

Judy Grumish - October 25, 2023 at 08:05 PM

CD

Chuck & Nancy Dixon lit a candle in memory of Theodore A. Tusinski

Chuck & Nancy Dixon - October 15, 2023 at 02:41 PM