



William Gessner

September 27, 1917 - March 10, 2005

William G. Gessner, 87, of Kankakee, died Thursday (March 10, 2005) at his home. A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday at the Congregational United Church of Christ, Kankakee, where he was a founding member. Rev. Thomas Zimmerman will officiate. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Kankakee County Humane Society or to the Congregational United Church of Christ. Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, West Kankakee, is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Gessner was a self-employed insurance and real estate broker. He was past president of the Kankakee County Board of Realtors and was named Realtor of the Year in 1992. He was born Sept. 29, 1917, in Beaver Dam, Wis., the son of Benjamin F. and Mayme Ploof Gessner. His parents are deceased. Surviving are his wife, the former Jean Todd, of Kankakee, whom he married May 24, 1941, in Auburn; one son and daughter-in-law, Todd and Sally Gessner of Mt. Vernon; one daughter and son-in-law, Gretchen and Robert "Bevan" LaBeau of Kankakee; four grandchildren, Heather (Jason) Owens, Brant (Jamie) Gessner, K.T. and Luke LaBeau; three great-grandchildren, Hannah and Evan Owens and Ella Gessner; one nephew, Bob (Sherry) Gessner; and one niece, Barb Casey. One sister, Betty; and one brother, Robert, are deceased. He was a graduate of Knox College and a very loyal University of Illinois fan and financial booster. Mr. Gessner served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in the Pacific Theatre of Operations during World War II as a reconnaissance photographer. He was a proud member of the VFW Vintage Squadron. He was a member of

the Lions Club, where he was secretary for over 50 years; a member of the Moose, the Masonic Lodge and member and supporter of Ducks Unlimited and Northern Illinois Anglers Association. He was also a member of the City of Kankakee Zoning Board. He was an avid fisherman and photographer.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Album*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - December 07, 2010 at 01:55 PM



“ *Bill was my parent's insurance agent, so when I got my first car I also had Bill as my insurance agent. ¶½When I got married, we continued using him as our agent and he became more of a friend than an insurance agent. ¶½He was one of the nicest people I have ever known. ¶½Last fall I spent about an hour talking to him in his office just about personal things and his business. ¶½He told me how old he was and I was quite surprised. ¶½He told me how he wanted to work and keep busy. ¶½My husband owns a lawn business and we mowed for Bill once a year on a vacant lot he was co-owner of. ¶½I am sorry that he has passed and you have my deepest sympathy. ¶½I am sorry that I could not attend his memorial service. As I said, Bill was a very kind gentleman and he was more of a friend than an insurance agent. ¶½I will miss going in, seeing him and talking to him. ¶½###imported-begin##Marlene Heagle###imported-end##*

March 11, 2005 at 11:02 AM



“ Bill Gessner

A one of a kind! I knew Bill from a very young age when I attended Church he would look over at me, I would giggle and

in return get in trouble with Dad. Years later when I purchased a home on North Alma it was next door to Bill's office. Many days I recall seeing his smile, and he always had good things to say, there are not many people in this world like him. He will be not only missed by a few, but by thousands, the thousands of people to whom he made life better for, who never knew him.##imported-begin##Doug Schnell##imported-end##

March 11, 2005 at 11:02 AM



“ Bill and I had a mutual friend in Howard Schwark. We spoke every couple of months regarding if we had heard anything about Howard through Howard's brother Wilbur or others. In fact, Bill, Myron Skeen (former Highway Commissioner from Otto Township) and I had planned to visit Howard together this Spring when Myron returned from Florida. "Mind if I come along," Bill asked? "Not at all, not at all...I'd like it very much if you would," I replied. Bill stopped in my office not that awful long ago and showed me a picture he took with Howard during his last visit as well as to put in a good word for his grandson, Luke, who was interested in summer employment at County Highway. I also saw Bill from time to time with his nephew Bob Gessner, who I work with in County government. Fine people...the Gessner's! Even though Bill lived beyond the average man's normal life span, which gives us pause to consider his above average qualities as a man, I will; nevertheless, miss him...especially, the Lord willing, when I visit Howard. To Jean and the entire Gessner family, please accept my deepest sympathy regarding the death of a dear, dear man, Bill Gessner. May God bless you all in your time of sorrow. Jim Piekarczyk##imported-begin##Jim Piekarczyk, County Engineer##imported-end##

March 11, 2005 at 11:02 AM



“ NULL##imported-begin##Joyette Boudreau##imported-end##

March 11, 2005 at 11:02 AM



“ NULL##imported-begin##Darwin Jaenicke##imported-end##

March 11, 2005 at 11:02 AM



“ Bill was a long, long time friend that I got know as young new member of the Lion's club 45 years ago. He always knew me and I always enjoyed talking to Bill. I will sorryly miss him. He was a true friend.

I always remember all the fun we had selling candy on Lion's candy day. The last time I saw Bill was at an intersection selling candy. What a guy. There are not many like him anymore.##imported-begin##Darwin Jaenicke##imported-end##

March 11, 2005 at 11:02 AM



“ Our sincere sympathy on the loss of Bill. We have known him for about 35 years. ĩ½He was our insurance agent for several years and just a very nice person. ĩ½Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.##imported-begin##Raymond & Claudia Holohan##imported-end##

March 11, 2005 at 11:02 AM



“ We wish to express to you our deepest sympathy. ĩ½Bill was a very kind and loving man. ĩ½Knew him for several years and he will be sadly missed.##imported-begin##Pat and Judy Holohan##imported-end##

March 11, 2005 at 11:02 AM



“ I first met this wonderful man in the late '50s when GiGi and I became childhood friends. To me, Mr. Gessner epitomized the perfect image of a husband and father. I'll always remember "hanging out" at their home and watching him encourage and support his children in their pursuits even though he had to be tired from long days at work. (Did he ever miss a basketball game Todd played in?) I still see him reading in front of the fireplace with their chow HeyBoy at his feet. Although I left K3 many years ago, my brother has kept me up to date on old friends and was pleased to tell me that he'd seen Mr. Gessner just last Wed. at a Veterans Breakfast. He was as involved and convivial as ever...still reaching out to support his friends and community. He will be missed. Our prayers go out to Mrs. Gessner, GiGi, Todd and their families.##imported-begin##Kaye and Byron Wallace##imported-end##

March 11, 2005 at 11:02 AM



“ We have not seen Bill for some time but he was always doing something and enjoyed doing just that, great to talk with about almost anything. We will miss him. Dick & Ali##imported-begin##Richard & Aline McHie##imported-end##

March 11, 2005 at 11:02 AM



“ May you find comfort in precious memories.##imported-begin##ROBT MCKENNA##imported-end##

March 11, 2005 at 11:02 AM



“ Dear Jean, Todd, and Gigi
I'm sorry I'm out of town and Danny and I can't attend the Funeral. Mom called me and told me Bill had passed away. I was so surprised he's been such a vital part of the community I just can't imagine his being gone. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. Bill was always such a gentleman and such fun to know.
Thinking of you
Lolly Ward
Lolly Ward

March 11, 2005 at 11:02 AM



“ Our sympathy goes out to you, Jean. Always, remember the wonderful days, with Bill, in Meadowview and at the K3 C C.
Joel and Pat Brault

March 11, 2005 at 11:02 AM



“ Mr. Gessner was a frequent visitor to Kranz Electric as the business was insured through his office (Gessner & LaBeau). It was a pleasure to speak to him occasionally.
Over the years, we would see each other in different offices and try to catch up on the other business people we shared conversations with.
Mr. Gessner was a very respected business man and a sincerely nice gentlemen.
I am so sorry for his passing.

March 11, 2005 at 11:02 AM



“ Sorry to hear about your dad. My thoughts are with you.
Ivan Meyer

March 11, 2005 at 11:02 AM