

Joseph Whalen

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RANTOUL – Joseph Edward Whalen, 93, of Rantoul passed away at 3:46 p.m. Wednesday (June 22, 2011) at Provena Covenant Medical Center emergency room in Urbana, and went home to his God.

He was born on July 16, 1917, in Charleston, Mo., to William C. and Mary McHugh Whalen. He married Florence Hannagan on Oct. 11, 1941, at St. Lawrence Parish, Penfield. They were blessed with 67 years of holy marriage. Florence died on Feb. 5, 2009.

Joseph is survived by five children, Joseph Jr. (and Patsy) of Wichita Falls, Texas, Gregory of Penfield, Paul (and Suzi) of Brownsburg, Ind., Kathi (and Pete) of Washington, D.C., and Jeanne of Peoria. He was blessed with seven grandchildren, Joseph E. Whalen III of Spokane, Teresa (and Kevin) Harvey of Brownsburg, Ind., P.J. (Julie) Whalen of Indianapolis, Ind., Erin Whalen of Washington, Mo., Colleen (and Phil) Sicuso of Brownsburg, Ind., Kara Piccirilli of Washington, D.C., and Cristin Piccirilli of Louisville, Ky. The Whalens were further blessed with nine great-grandchildren.

He had four siblings who preceded him in death, brothers James, William and Francis, and his sister, Margaret Graham, all of Chicago. Two infant siblings died in the 1917 influenza.

Three dearly loved in-laws survive, Gordie and Jan Hannagan of Penfield, Mary Boland Hannagan of Champaign and Margaret Hannagan Kennedy of Abilene, Texas.

Joseph graduated from Rantoul Township High School in 1935. He entered the military service in the Army Air Corps in 1941, and was discharged in 1945, as a staff sergeant.

He lived and worked on the family centennial farm for 34 years, retiring to become a real estate broker in 1975.

He was very community-minded and served on many local boards of directors, Farm Bureau, 1956-63; Illini FS, 1969-82; Champaign-Charleston Federal Land Bank, 1972-83; Country Health Nursing Home, 30 years; and Rantoul Chamber of Commerce, 1983.

He was elected as a Champaign County Board member and Ludlow Township commissioner.

He served as a member of the Gifford Lions Club (charter member), American Legion and the Moose Lodge.

He was a Roman Catholic and at the time of his death a parishioner at St. Malachy Parish, Rantoul, where he served as lector and extraordinary minister of holy communion.

He was a Knight of Columbus, 4th Degree, charter member of Council 4450 of Rantoul.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday, June 27, at St. Malachy Church in Rantoul. Father Steven Bird will officiate. Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, June 26, at Lux Memorial Chapel, Rantoul, with recitation of the Rosary at 3:40 p.m. Burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, Penfield, will follow the Mass.

Memorials may be made to St. Malachy School, Rantoul, Country Health Nursing Home, Gifford, or for Masses.

