

Leslie "Les" J Portwood, 94

Oct. 5, 1923 - March 21, 2018

HARLAN - Leslie Gerald Portwood was born in Kewanee, IL, on October 5, 1923, the son of Leslie and Irene (Higgins) Portwood. He graduated from Clear Lake High School in Clear Lake in 1941. On March 4, 1943, he married Mary Patricia "Pat" Schneider in Mason City. Pat and Les became the parents of six children: Janann, Michael, Phillip, Eileen, James, and Joseph.

He enlisted in the United States Army on March 5, 1943 and served his country honorably during World War II until his discharge December 1, 1945. After the war he attended and graduated from the Minnesota School of Business in 1948. After settling in Clear Lake the couple moved to Boone in 1964. Les worked for Iowa State University starting in 1968 and retiring as Treasurer in 1986. The couple relocated to Harlan in 2002.

In his earlier years, Les enjoyed fishing, hiking, and camping. He often shared his love of outdoors with his family by taking them on trips around Iowa to explore the countryside and its wonderful parks. Les was a member of the Loyal Order of Moose #104 of Boone and the V.F.W. Post #817 where he had served as Post Commander and #6 District Commander. His military service and love of country was something very important to Les which he passed on to his children and grandchildren.

Les died on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, at the Avoca Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Avoca. Les formerly resided in Boone and Clear Lake.

Les was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Pat on October 16, 2015; step-father, Ray Himrod; a brother, Phillip Portwood; his sisters, Marjorie Hansen, Helen Compton, and Dixie Dankbar; a grandson, Joseph Michael Portwood and a daughter-in-law, Brenda Portwood.

Les is survived by his children: Janann (Steve) Beaubien, Michael Portwood, Phillip Portwood, Eileen (Tim) Johnson, Jim (Kate) Portwood, and Joe (Joann) Portwood. Also surviving are his sisters-in-law, Patsy Portwood and Genevieve (Joseph) Vallenari; 12 grandchildren: Todd Beaubien, Jenee Beaubien-Boetel, Tony Portwood, Andy Portwood, Travis Portwood, Nathaniel Portwood, Amanda Portwood, Clayton Portwood, Reahna Portwood, Melissa Portwood-Lehmann, Cory Hunt, and Bailey Portwood; and 18 great grandchildren.

Per his wishes, he was cremated. A Memorial Service will be held at the Church of the Sacred Heart in Boone on Friday, April 27, 2018 at 11 A.M. Burial of cremains will be held at Sacred Heart Cemetery with Military Honors conducted by the Boone Veterans Council.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in memory of Leslie may be directed to the family to be given to a veteran's organization.

Online condolences can be made at schroedermemorialchapel.com

The Schroeder-Reimers Memorial Chapel at Sixth and Marshall in Boone is in charge of the arrangements.

