

NO PHOTO

Foster, Donald J

Topeka, KS

HQ Batt Artillery

Donald J. Foster, 87, Topeka, died Sat., Nov. 1, 2008, at St. Francis Hospital.

He was born Nov. 8, 1920, at Longton, the son of Louis "Cloyd" and Minnie (Gardner) Foster and moved to Topeka with his family in 1926. He graduated from Topeka High School and attended Kansas University.

He served in the U.S. Army during WW II with the 96th Infantry Division in the South Pacific participating in the initial landings on Leyte Island in the Philippines and Easter Sunday morning Landings on Okinawa. He was discharged in Dec., 1945, as a First Sergeant.

He retired from the Santa Fe Railroad, Dec., 1980, as a Communication Engineer, after 40 years of service. He worked in the Chicago area, returning to Topeka in 1960. He was a member and Past President of the 96th Infantry Div. Assoc. He was a 62 Year Life Member and Past Commander of Capitol Post # 1, of the American Legion. A member of Voiture # 1148 of 40/8 and Past Chef-De Gare and Past Grand Cheminot of Kansas. He was a 45 Year Life Member and Past Commander of Post # 1650, VFW. Don was a Life Member of the Military Order of the Cootie and Past Grand Commander of Kansas. He was a member and Past President of the Topeka BNSF Retired Employees Club. A 46 year member of Topeka Lodge # 17, AF & AM; and a member of Topeka Scottish Rite Bodies and Arab Shrine Temple. He had been a volunteer at the Colmery-ONeil VAMC. Don was a member of First Presbyterian Church.

Don was married to Donna Jean Zarn on May 31, 1942, in Topeka. She survives. Also surviving him are children: Dorothy J. Anderson (Norman) of Topeka, D. Jerry Foster (Patty) of Topeka, Donna J. Myers (Terry) of Topeka, and Dean J. Foster (Dannette) of Mission; 5 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be at 10:00 AM, Wed., Nov. 5, 2008, at First Presbyterian Church, 817 SW Harrison. Philip Billard Post # 1650, VFW will conduct military honors at Penwell-Gabel Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5:30 to 7:30 PM, Tues., at Penwell-Gabel Parker-Price Chapel, 245 NW Independence. Memorial contributions may be made to Am. Heart Assoc., POB 1653, Topeka, KS 66601, Philip Billard Post # 1650, 3110 SW Huntoon, Topeka, KS 66604, or Shriners Children's Hospital c/o Arab Shrine Temple, 1305 South Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612.