



Christman, Wallace 'Wallie'

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Wallace "Wallie" P. Christman, 85, passed away on Monday, April 21, 2008, after battling several months of cancer. He was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin on May 10, 1922, the first child of the late Peter and Mabel (Zeugner) Christman, Jr. He attended Cathedral Catholic School, East High School (Class of 1939) and graduated from the University of Notre Dame, Class of 1944 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting.

Wallie was a veteran of World War II, serving with the United States Army in the 96th Infantry Division in the South Pacific. He participated in the Battle of Leyte Island in the Philippines in 1944. He was also in the first wave of the invasion of Okinawa in April 1945, where he was severely wounded on April 11, 1945. He was awarded the Purple Heart, two battle stars, and was the recipient of the Bronze Star.

On June 30, 1951, Wallie married the former Rosemary Ann Martin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Martin at Annunciation Catholic Church in Green Bay. They have two sons, Michael and Peter.

After many months in Army hospitals for surgery and rehabilitation, Wallie returned to Green Bay and joined Green Bay Foundry and Machine Works, where he was employed for 41 years. In 1969, he purchased the business and operated it until his retirement in 1987. Wallie sold the company to the former Hewitt Machine Company of Neenah and for the next two years, he continued to work for them as a consultant.

Wallie was an avid sportsman. His favorite past times were hunting, fishing, bowling and he had a genuine "passion" for golf. He was a lifelong member of Oneida Country Club, where he honed his golf skills and enjoyed playing with his many regular golfing pals over the years. In 1953, Wallie won the annual Press Gazette Golf Tournament, now known as the Brown County Tournament. Wallie also coached Little League baseball in Allouez. He was an avid Packer fan and attended Packer games spanning eight decades.

He was a member of St. Matthew Parish, and a member of the Knights of Columbus and the VFW organizations. Wallie was an instructor of the Dale Carnegie Courses in both Green Bay and Oconto. He also served as a past president of the Notre Dame Club of Green Bay.

Wallie is survived by his wife of 56 years, Rosemary; his two sons, Michael Ryan, Van Buren, Ark.; and

Peter Edward, Los Angeles, Calif.; one sister, Nancy Blakesley, Green Bay; three grandchildren, Katie Christman Rose and her husband, Jonathan Rose, South Bend, Ind.; Michael Christman and Kelly Christman, Houston, Texas and their mother, Sue Christman, South Bend, Ind.; sister-in-law, Mary Ellen Martin, Green Bay; brother-in-law, Louis "Bud" Bellin, Fond du Lac; stepbrothers and sisters and their spouses, Thomas (Arita) Robinson, De Pere; June Bongers, Jacksonville, Fla.; Joyce Miller, Haymarket, Va.; June Robinson, Grace (Ken) Bouschart and Daniel (Cindy) Robinson, Green Bay. Wallie is further survived by his former brothers-in-law, James Reince and James Everson, many nieces, nephews, other relatives and dear friends.

Wallie is preceded in death by his stepfather, Allen Robinson; one sister, Helen Claire Christian; his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Margaret and Henry J. Martin; sister-in-law, Patricia Bellin; brothers-in-law, Ralph Blakesley, Edward Martin, Patrick H. Martin, and John Christian; stepbrothers, Maurice Robinson, Jerry Miller, and Donald Bongers.

Gathering time with family and friends will be held on Thursday, April 24, 2008, from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Schauer & Schumacher Funeral Home, 340 S. Monroe Avenue. Visitation will continue on Friday, April 25, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, 130 St. Matthew Street from 10 a.m. until the Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. with Bishop Robert F. Morneau officiating. Entombment in Allouez Chapel Mausoleum.

A memorial fund has been established in Wallie's name for the Foundation Fighting Blindness.