



Owens, Thomas J

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SPRINGFIELD, IL - Thomas J. Owens of Springfield passed away May 29, 2014, at Regency Nursing Care Residence.

Tom was born Oct. 24, 1920, in Springfield, Ill., the son of Harry and Nonie (Bowe) Owens.

Tom proudly served our country in the Army during WWII, fighting with the 96th Infantry Division in the South Pacific. After serving our country, Tom owned and operated a nursery, Owens Landscaping. He later went on to work for the Illinois Secretary of State until retirement.

Tom was involved in politics for many years. He served as Sangamon County Democratic Chairman from 1960-1974, was a Democratic precinct committeeman for Gardner Township for 23 years, and worked in many statewide and local political campaigns.

Tom was a member of VFW, American Legion, and an active participant in World War II Combat Veterans Conversation Group at the Springfield Vet Center.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Margaret Thornton and Kate Woods; brothers: Bernard Owens, William Owens, Harry Owens and Orville "Rip" Owens.

Tom is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Lela; son, Terry Owens (wife, Enola) of Springfield, Ill.; daughter, Virginia Bayless (husband, Carey) of Springfield, Ill.; grandsons, Benjamin Bayless (wife, Erica) of St. Louis, Mo., and Tyler Owens of Springfield, Ill.; great-grandson, Levi Bayless of St. Louis, Mo.; stepgrandsons, Brendan Bayless (wife, Sarah) of Marthasville, Mo., and Montee Bayless of Terre Haute, Ind.; three step-great-grandchildren, Alex, Eleanor and Rowan Bayless; and brother, Joe Owens (wife, Joann) of Springfield, Ill.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until the time of the funeral service at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, June 3, 2014, at Ellinger-Kunz & Park Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Camp Butler National Cemetery where the Inter-Veterans Burial Detail will conduct honors.

In lieu of flowers, please send memorials to: Animal Protective League or Memorial Hospice.

Ellinger-Kunz & Park Funeral Home, 530 N. 5th St., Springfield, IL 62702 is in charge of arrangements. Visit our online obituary at www.ellingerkunzfuneralhome.com.