

NO PHOTO Ellis, Richard 'Dick'

Athens, MI

382nd Inf Co C

Richard T. "Dick" Ellis Athens, MI January 26, 1919 - March 1, 2008 Richard Thurman "Dick" Ellis, 89, of Athens, died March 1, 2008 at Battle Creek Health System. He was born January 26, 1919, the son of Harry and Grace (Clay) Ellis in Park Lake, Michigan.

Dick served as a sergeant in the Army during World War II. He served in the Philippines with Company C, 382nd Infantry, 96th Division. He received two Bronze Stars for his service.

After returning from the service he farmed for a short time in Marion and then worked at Eaton Manufacturing as an inspector from 1951 until retiring in 1982. Dick married Celia Mae Bussema on October 25, 1947 in Marion. She survives. He's also survived by daughters, Patricia Mae Burke of Portage, Mary Lou Griffith of Crestview, Florida; son, Richard T. (Carie) Ellis of Toledo; grandchildren, William R. Burke, Mark H. Burke, Charles E. Griffith III and Angela L. Mobley; and seven great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Robert E. Ellis and great-granddaughter, Billie Jo Burke.

Dick was a member and active in V.F.W. Post 5319 in Athens, serving as Post Quartermaster for over 10 years; a member of Athens United Methodist Church and its Men's Club and a member of the Cooties in Battle Creek. Dick attended 36 reunions of the 96th Infantry all over the United States. He was an avid sports fan and especially enjoyed attending Detroit Tiger baseball games and Athens High School sports.

Friends may call from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at Athens United Methodist Church where services will take place at 1 p.m. Tuesday with Pastor Sandra Gastian officiating. Interment, Burr Oak Cemetery, Athens. Memorials may go to Athens United Methodist Church or V.F.W. National Home for Children.