

Kermit A. Heinz

PEORIA - Kermit A. Heinz, age, 91, passed away at 7:54 a.m. Wednesday, July 12, 2017, in his home in Creve Coeur, IL, surrounded by his loving, devoted wife and children. Heaven gained a beautiful soul.

Born January 17, 1926, on the farm in Kickapoo, IL, he was a son of Alex P. and Rose (Gilles) Heinz. He married Mary Ann (Young) on January 29, 1955, in Peoria at St. Boniface Church. He was the epitome of a hard-working man and devoted husband for 62 years. His wife, Mary Ann, survives. Also surviving are their 17 children, Jeffrey Heinz, Rose (Randy) Rugh, Elliot Heinz, Charlene Beeney, Matthew Heinz, Jane (Chris) Gibson, Mark (Nicky) Heinz, Sallie (Matt) Roth, Bruce (Holli) Heinz, Doug (Lisa) Heinz, Jack (Denise) Heinz, Diane Heinz, Lynne (Shane) Walker, Gayle (Ronnie) Gutierrez, Carol (Shawn) Omer, Nathan (Melissa) Heinz and Merideth Behrens. Kermit is also survived by two siblings, Norvin Heinz and Isabel Shockey; 49 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great-grandson (with many more to come).

Kermit was preceded in death by three sisters, Wilma Lawler, Ida Mae Boyer and Florence Heinz; and three brothers, Floyd, Gilbert and Maurice Heinz.

Kermit proudly served our country in the U.S. Navy in World War II in the South Pacific. He and his brother, Gilbert, ran Heinz Construction for a number of years. He was then the Kickapoo Township Road Commissioner before becoming a machine operator at Caterpillar. He was in the Union of Carpenters and was a member of St. Ann Catholic Church in Peoria. He had a commanding presence, booming voice and a way with words and loved to sing in church and at home. He enjoyed golf, fishing and taking his family camping every summer. He could come across as intimidating, but if you knew him, he had a tender heart and hilarious wit. Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, July 14, 2017, at Wright & Salmon Mortuary, with a rosary recitation at 6:45 p.m. Funeral Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 15, 2017, at St. Ann Catholic Church, with a one hour prior visitation. Fr. Don Roszkowski will officiate. Burial will follow at St. Mary Catholic Cemetery in West Peoria.

Memorials may be made to the Family Resources Center, 415 NE Monroe St., Peoria, IL 61602.

Friends may leave private condolences for the family at www.wrightandsalmon.com.