

RUSHVILLE - Gilbert M. Heinz, 81, of Rushville died Sunday, June 12, 2005, at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria.

He was born May 17, 1924, in Kickapoo, the son of Alex P. and Rosella V. Gilles Heinz. He married Ruth Cook in 1947 in Kickapoo; she died in 1962. He married Eleanor Dunlap in 1965; she died in 1967. He married Marilyn Arnold in 1969 in Missouri.

Mr. Heinz retired as a bulldozer operator in 2004 after more than 59 years. He was a veteran of World War II, participating in the D-Day invasion at Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge. He received the Purple Heart medal. He was a member of St. Rose Catholic Church in Rushville and Schuyler American Legion Post 4.

Survivors: wife, Marilyn; six sons, Michael (wife, Deni), Randall (wife, Penny), Rolly (wife, Kate), Vince (wife, Pam) and Rick (wife, Becky) Heinz, all of Rushville, and Gilbert Heinz Jr. of Decatur; four daughters, Joyce (husband, Danny) Baggott of Peoria, Lorrie (husband, Ed) Brownfield of Manito, Cherie Heinz of Galesburg and Marnie (husband, Brian) Eskridge of Canton; 24 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; three brothers, Floyd Heinz of Reseda, Calif., Kermit (wife, Mary) Heinz of Peoria and Norvin Heinz of Edwards; three sisters, Wilma Lawlar of California, Ida Mae (husband, Paul) Boyer of Bellevue, Fla., and Isabelle Schockey of Zephyr Hills, Fla.; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral Mass: 11 a.m. Thursday, St. Mary's Church, Kickapoo, the Rev. Charles Karl officiating. Interment: St. Patrick Cemetery, Kickapoo.

Wood Funeral Home in Rushville is in charge of arrangements.