

Wednesday, December 03, 2008 New Prague Times Website

Bernard Speikers, 89

Bernard "Ben" H. Speikers, 89, Montgomery, died on Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2008, at Augustana Health Care Center in Hastings.

Ben, the son of Joseph and Mary (Lestina) Speikers, was born on November 24, 1919 in Montgomery. A resident of Montgomery for his entire life, Ben attended St. Raphael Catholic grade school, then graduated from Montgomery High School in 1938. He worked for Green Giant before joining the peace time training army on February 7, 1941.

From February 28, 1941 to August 13, 1945 during WWII, Ben served his country in the U.S. Army. He was a member of the CO.C 1st Battalion, 30th Regiment of the Third Division, under Gen. George Patton. During his four and a half years, Ben's tour included Tunisia, North Africa, French Morocco, Casablanca, Cairo, Tehran, Sicily, Anzio Beach, Italy.

Because of his service, Ben twice received the Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster, two Purple Hearts, the Good Conduct Medal, and WWII Victory Medal.

After his years of service, he married Marion (Pasek) Speikers on January 19, 1946 at St. Wenceslaus Church in New Prague. Together, the couple lived in Montgomery for 62 years.

For 10 years, Ben worked for Munsingwear. He also worked at the Montgomery Elevator until its fire. He worked at the Robin Hood Flour Mill in New Prague until his retirement in 1986.

Ben was a member and past commander of the VFW. He was also a member of the Sportsman's Club and enjoyed gardening, fishing and hunting.

He is survived by his wife; sons Bernie (Linda) Speikers, New Prague; Chuck (Vicki), Shakopee, Mike (Carrie), Jordan; daughters Susan Honza, Montgomery, Patty (Ernie) Tikalsky, New Prague, and Mary Beth (Gary) Grassmann, Cleveland; sister Marietta "Toots" Kukacka, Montgomery, and brother Joseph Speikers, Montgomery. He is also survived by 14 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law George Kukacka.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Nov. 29 at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Montgomery with Father Cory Rohlfing officiating. Military honors were provided by the Montgomery Area Veteran's Honor Guard.

Pallbearers were Brad, Scott and C.J. Speikers, Mark Grassmann, Ed Keogh and Dennis Keogh. Honorary pallbearers were Ben's granddaughters.

Interment was held at the Calvary Cemetery in Montgomery.

Visitation was held Friday, Nov. 28 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Schoenbauer Funeral Home in Montgomery, and one hour prior to the service at the church.