

Francis Anthony Chesnick(1925 - 2017)

Francis Anthony Chesnick 1925 - 2017

UTICA - Francis Anthony Chesnick passed away on July 29, 2017.

He was born in Uniondale, PA to Jacob and Mary Cavage Chesnick. He entered the [Army](#) at age eighteen. He was assigned to Company A, 395 Regiment of the 99th Division, 5th Corps First Army. He saw battle in the Siegfried Line, the Ardennes (Bulge) Rochirath-Krinkeht area, Elsenborn Ridge, Rhineland, Remagen Bridgehead and Southern Germany. In September 1945 he was transferred to Brussels where he served on Staff at a POW camp. He was discharged the rank of Technical Sergeant in 1946. He was awarded three major battle stars, the [Bronze Star](#), the European Victory Medal and classed as Expert with the M-1 rifle. With the benefits of the GI loan, he earned a Bachelor's in Agricultural Economics at Penn State. In 1950 he began his career at Dairylea until retirement in 1990.

The Chesnick brothers had baseball in their blood - several letters from Fran's war correspondence with a high school friend were filled with "Can you play ball where you are?" At Penn State he was their all-star pitcher. This led to being scouted by the Yankees and two years of semi-pro pitching.

He had refused offers when young to coach baseball at Penn State and in retirement to work in developing SUNY Marcy. Dad had a strong respect for farmers and in his later years would always proudly describe his job as being one of helping farmers.

He married Forest City girl, June Paye, in 1954; she passed away in 2007. In 1969, they moved to the old farmhouse in Deerfield. He became known as "Farmer Fran" due to his gardening skills. He was loved and respected by all the neighbors and developed a special friendship with Donna, Jim and Lois.

He never forgot the land of Belgium and how he helped them during [World War II](#). This led to several trips and many friendships in Belgium via the Mathilde and Marchel Schmetz's WWII Remembrance Museum. Enough cannot be said about how deep in the hearts of the Chesnicks are the Belgian friends, including the unforgettable, George, his "friend from Thimister".

Fran was one of fourteen children, of whom survive are Pauline Nadzak and Alphie (Joy) Chesnick. Other family members include his daughters, Karen (Andy) Frosch in Delaware, Susan (Chip) Lorraine in Utica and Christine (Joe) Chesnick in Endwell; families of grandchildren, Jacob Lorraine, Daniel Vennero and Kristin Dinelle; and many much loved nieces and nephews.

Sincere thanks to the Elm wing of the Presbyterian Home for their humor and care for Dad in past few months.

Donations, in Francis's memory, may be made to the Forest City Historical Society, 305 Martin Street, Forest City, PA 18421.

Mr. Chesnick's funeral will be held on Wednesday, August 2, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mark's Church, 440 Keyes Rd., N. Utica, where his Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Calling hours for family and friends are Tuesday from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Heintz Funeral Home, 408 Herkimer Rd. N. Utica. Burial will be at Saratoga Veterans Cemetery at a date to be announced at the calling hours.

American Legion Utica Post 229 will meet at the funeral home on Tuesday evening at 6:45 p.m.

Online guestbook and messages of sympathy at heintzfuneralservice.net.

**Funeral Home****Heintz Funeral Service Inc**

408 Herkimer Rd Utica, NY 13502

(315) 797-5552

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