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Orland Johnson share

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RANTOUL – Orland Johnson, 83, of Rantoul passed away peacefully at 5:28 a.m. Tuesday (Oct. 11, 2016) at Heritage Health in Gibson City.

A visitation will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17, at Lux Memorial Chapel in Rantoul.

A celebration of Orland's life will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Lux Memorial Chapel, Rantoul. Pastor Terry Sheppard will officiate. Burial will be in the National Cemetery in Danville.

Orland was born on July 22, 1933, in LaCrosse Wis., but spent most of his younger years in Minnesota. He was a son of Solven and Marjorie Johnson.

Orland is survived by his three children, William Johnson of Rantoul, Michael (Teresa) Johnson of Bourbonnais and Kathryn (Michael) Graybill of Gifford; and six grandchildren, Anthony, Daniel, Nicholas and Zachary Johnson, and Kristyn and Bradley Graybill.

Also surviving are a brother, Allan (Judy) Johnson; and three sisters, Barbara (Steve) Slavens, Sandra Johnson and Terrie (Skip) Blesi.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Marlin Johnson; and one sister, Carol.

Orland was a multi-sports star during his high school years and a third baseman for the New York Giants minor league affiliates for three seasons before he served in the U.S. Army. He was a Korean War veteran. He retired from the Rantoul City Schools in 1998.

Orland was a member of the Rantoul United Methodist Church, where he was the leader of the Methodist men's group. He was one of the original founders, directors and coaches of the Rantoul Falcons.

He enjoyed woodworking, all sports and loved the Minnesota Vikings, Minnesota Gophers, Minnesota Twins and of course the Chicago Cubs.

Orland battled Alzheimer's for five years and his greatest joy in life was his family, going to his grandkids' sporting events and singing to all the nurses at the nursing home.

