
Trowbridge, James H.

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James Henry Trowbridge, age 96, of Bethel, CT, passed away Friday January 20, 2017 at Candlewood Valley Health Care in New Milford, CT. He was born on December 16, 1920 in Danbury, CT, son of the late George and Gladys (Brown) Trowbridge.

Jim was in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1942 to 1945, assigned to amphibian duty aboard the U.S.S Joseph T. Dickman during WWII. He was in the invasions of Sicily, Salerno, Normandy and Southern France at St. Topaz. He was awarded the Navy Combat Action Ribbon, Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Silver Star denoting the number of campaigns, WWII Victory Medal, Honorable Discharge Pin and Honorable Service Lapel Pin for his time and duties while serving in WWII.

Jim was a fair athlete and his passion was baseball. He played professional baseball for part of three years when WWII broke out. A few months after his discharge from the service the St. Louis Cardinals contacted him and he signed a professional baseball contract with one of their top minor league affiliates in Houston, TX. In the spring of 1946 he went to spring training in Houston. Having lost three and a half years during WWII he felt he “lost a step” and gave up baseball as a livelihood. When he first came home from the war he worked for four years for his father in a lumber yard in Brookfield, CT. He peddled milk for two years and eventually became a journey-man carpenter. In 1956 he joined the carpenters Union and for the rest of his life he worked in heavy construction. Jim worked for a consulting engineering company and oversaw construction projects for the American Telephone Co. and the New York Telephone Co. These jobs led him to oversee work on five floors of the South tower of the World Trade Center.

Jim is survived by his daughters, Linda Garrity of Bridgewater, CT and Sandra McNamara of McDonough, GA: sisters Lois Trowbridge and Grace Kastel; grandsons Erik, Jacob and Snowy and many nieces and nephews. Jim is predeceased in death by his two sons, Myron and William and his brother Stuart.

Funeral services will take place at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to The Veterans of Foreign War, 40 Main Street, Bethel, CT 06801.

Arrangements by the Lillis Funeral Home, 58 Bridge Street, New Milford, CT.

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Lillis Funeral Home, New Milford, CT

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