



James E. Benner

January 31, 1927 - March 26, 2013

LEXINGTON: James E. Benner, age 86, of Fort Gratiot Twp., passed away in Port Huron Hospital after a long, courageous battle with various illnesses. He was born January 31, 1927 in Springfield, OH, the only son of the late Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Benner.

James was a Life Member of Marysville (Lexington) Lodge, Shrine, and 32 degree Mason, Croswell Chapter 236 O.E.S.

He is survived by his loving wife Dolores (Nunn) Wray Bigger, daughter Terrie (William) Maples, a special granddaughter Ashley (David) White, step sister-in-law Virginia Meyer, and step brother-in-law Wallace (Grace) Nunn. Step nieces and nephews, as well as great nieces and nephews, and three great nieces and two great nephews, cousins, and many friends.

During his working years, Jim met many notable people. He met actor John Hodiak while working with Jim's father on an engineering project in Detroit. Later, when Jim was decommissioned from the Navy, he ran into John Hodiak in San Francisco. John asked Jim to spend a few days before going home to Detroit with he and his wife, actress Ann Baxter. While Jim was visiting the Hodiaks he met actress Joan Crawford. Among other notables were the Rev. Billy Graham, Rev. Eric Butterworth, Liberace and his brother George, The Rockettes, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford, Mr. and Mrs. Edsel Ford, and others. Jim had a very interesting life, even though he worked very hard at times. He was a chef in the Navy, sometimes fed between 6,000 and 7,000 persons. He has often told the story about going to Australia to pick up a load of Aussie

beef, which was so tough you could cook it all day and it still would be tough. A Masonic Service will be held 2 PM Saturday March 30 at the Pomeroy Funeral Home under auspices of Croswell F & A.M. Lodge #469, followed by funeral services with the Rev. Timothy Ziegler, pastor of the Lexington United Methodist Church, to officiate. Inurnment will be in the Port Sanilac Cemetery. Visitation will be held 11-2 PM Saturday.

Memorials to the Michigan Shriners