

Earl W. Betzhold

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Former Grafton resident Earl W. Betzhold had a talent for woodworking and could often be found in his workshop creating furniture for his family.

He made night stands, a hope chest for his wife Barbara and cradles for his grandchildren and great-grandchild.

“He was really very good at woodworking and was very meticulous about what he did,” his wife said.

Mr. Betzhold died of cancer at Sharon S. Richardson Community Hospice in Sheboygan Falls. He was 83.

He was born in Milwaukee on Sept. 18, 1929, to Art and Anita Betzhold.

He served in the Army with the 884th Engineer Aviation Maintenance Company from 1951 to 1953.

On Jan. 16, 1954, he married his childhood sweetheart, Patsy Fransee in Milwaukee.

The couple moved to Grafton in 1957.

Mrs. Betzhold preceded her husband in death in 1998.

On April 29, 2000, Mr. Betzhold married Barbara Knudsen at the Grafton Hotel.

The couple enjoyed traveling to Florida, went to Hawaii twice and went on a Caribbean cruise.

Mr. Betzhold owned and operated Ozaukee Welding and Sheet Metal in Grafton for nearly 10 years and was the first employee at Construction Forms, now located in Port Washington.

He was also an avid hunter and fisherman.

“He was just a jewel of a man. He was very ambitious and he was very meticulous,” his wife said.

He is survived by his wife Barbara of Sheboygan Falls; children Bill (Lump) of Hay River, Northwest Territories, Canada, Bonnie (Tom Jordan) Albrecht of West Bend, Terry Binns of Saukville and Brian (Gail) of Grafton; grandchildren Justin Carris, Nathan Betzhold, Cody Binns (fiancee Claire Broadwell), Emily Massingale and Josh Albrecht; and one great-granddaughter.

Mr. Betzhold is further survived by stepchildren Bob (Renee) Serre and Lance (Melissa) Horozewski, all of Janesville; stepgrandchildren Logan Serre, Nathan Korevaar and Anna Horozewski; brothers-in-law Gene Fransee of Saukville and Bernie Gotthardt of Whitefish Bay.

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In addition to his first wife Patsy and his parents Art and Anita Betzhold, he was preceded in death by his brother Donald.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, May 17, at Mueller Funeral Home in Grafton.

The Rev. John Norquist will officiate.

Visitation will be at the church from 1 p.m. Friday until the service.

Burial will be at Woodlawn Cemetery in Grafton.

Memorials to the family are appreciated.

Mueller Funeral Home is assisting the family.