



Howard Earl Knipp

July 8, 1921 - June 10, 2011

Howard Earl Knipp of Fort Collins, CO passed away peacefully on Friday, June 10th, 2011, just one month shy of his 90th birthday. He finally succumbed to his recent failing health. He was born in the family farmhouse in Flatrock Township, Napoleon, Ohio, on July 8th, 1921, near the Maumee River, to Ethel Elizabeth Trietch and Earl Ezra Knipp. He was preceded in death by Laverne, his wife of 38 years, his sister Dorothy Shertzer, brother Lee Knipp, and grandson Adam Kruse.

Howard proudly enlisted in the US Navy in 1941. For a short period he served aboard the repair ship USS Rigel AR11, and soon received his requested transfer to a fighting ship. He reported to the destroyer, the USS Fletcher DD445, on which he served from December of 1942 to June of 1945. As a Fire Controlman First Class, he operated the analog computers which were used to control the large guns on the ship. He was aboard the ship during 13 of its credited 16 battle engagements, including operations near Guadalcanal, Leyte Gulf, and Corregidor. Howard returned stateside on June 2nd of 1945. While in Los Angeles he met LaVerne Patricia Pyzyna of Chicago on a blind date, on June 10th, 1945. On July 10th of 1945, Howard and LaVerne were married. After being transferred to the Naval Academy at Annapolis to train cadets on fire control systems, Howard finished his Navy tour in 1947. The couple then made their home in Napoleon, Ohio. Howard owned and operated his own furniture store ?Howard?s Furniture?. He subsequently had his own radio and TV repair business, and worked at Sears Roebuck and finally retired

from Maumee Valley Vending Company.

His interests and hobbies included farming, golfing, fishing, dancing and playing chess and cards. He was a wicked euchre player, and he also enjoyed playing bridge with all of his friends at Rigden Farms. He learned how to use digital computers and the internet at the age of 80. Howard loved helping his granddaughter sell Girl Scout Cookies. He was interested in World War II history and enjoyed sharing his memories with his friends. In fact, he recently completed a video recording of his experiences during the war. Howard was one of the thirteen attendees at the first Fletcher reunion in 1971; he was very proud of his shipmates and all of his fellow veterans.

Survivors include son Ken Knipp, of Fort Collins, Colorado; daughter Genevieve Bonnie Rosewood of Oregon House, California; Cori Gerken of Sturgis, Michigan, daughter Becky Kruse and her husband Tom of Tulsa, OK; son Larry Knipp and his wife Wanda of Fort Collins, Colorado; and his ex-wife, Roberta Morgan of Vanlue, Ohio. He has fourteen grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 3:00 PM on Tuesday, June 14th at the Rigden Farm Senior Living facility, 2350 Limon Drive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80525. Contributions may be made to The American Heart Association in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 West Olive Street, Fort Collins, CO 80524

Tribute Wall

JP

“ I just learned of Howard's passing and was saddened to hear of it. I met Howard at Rigden Farm I worked there for some time. He stayed up late using the computer, then would stop by my desk on his way to his room and visit. It was an honor to know Howard; he was a kind and sincere man. To family and friends of Howard, I am truly sorry for your loss.

Jessy Pratt - June 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NG

“ Dear Family, I was so sorry to hear of the death of Howard. He was a fine man. As the former director of Rigden Farm, I had the great pleasure of getting to know Howard. I don't think a day went by that he did not greet me with a hug. I always appreciated Howard's kind, thoughtful and respectful manner. I was so grateful for his service on the resident council, for his creative and positive suggestions to help make life better for the lives of all our residents. I know he will be missed there. It was an honor, a blessing and a privilege to have known Howard. Sincerely, Nancy Geise

Nancy Geise - June 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ Dear Larry and the entire family. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to you in this time of loss. May God be with you and carry you through this difficult time. It has been many years since I have seen your Dad, but just this last weekend I was thinking of him and wondering how he was doing. Larry I was tell the “don't feed the bears” story. I was an honor to have known him and now pray that his soul rests in peace with God.

Mark & Annette Kolbe - June 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

A3

“ A memorial has been made to the Henry County War Memorial in honor of Howard, who was a life member of Post 300.

American Legion Post 300 - June 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ Dearest Dad, already a week has gone by...I am so grateful that I was holding your left hand as you breathed your last breath. You have been a tremendous example of courage and strength to me, especially these last four years. Thank you for being my Dad. Give Mom and Adam a HUGE hug and kiss from me. See you in the sequel. Godspeed, Dad; as requested, you are now "at peace."

Becky Kruse - June 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Our sincere sympathy to Howard's family. We were privileged to know him when he stayed with Cori and Jim a few years ago. We enjoyed our visits with him and the e-mails from him.

Dean and Doris Stuart - June 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ To Larry, Wanda and all the Family, We are sad to hear about Howard's passing. We have your family in our daily thoughts. Howard was always so nice to me and will always be in my memories. -Bob & Stephanie Carroll

Bob Carroll - June 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ To my cousins, so sorry to hear about Uncle Howard. Please accept my condolences. Larry, sorry I haven't kept in touch, but I don't like Facebook. Say "Hi" to everyone for me. Jim Wagner

Jim Wagner - June 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ I am so sorry for the loss of Howard to your family. He was a wonderful man who I enjoyed getting to know. I only worked at RF for a few months, but I became quite close to Howard. After I left Rigden, Howard & I kept in touch via email and Facebook. i went to visit him shortly before he died and, as always, he found his strength when giving me a huge hug. Howard loved his family and spoke of you all often. i feel like I know his sons personally though we never met. I will cherish my memories of Howard & heed his wise words about life. Once he told me that he was a lucky man with nothing to complain about. He was always thoughtful, considerate of others, and offered a kind word - something we should all remember to do. God Bless! Celene

Celene Van Buren - June 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ Sorry for your loss. Your dad was a great guy. Love to all. Becky, see you back in Tulsa. Love Rebecca

Rebecca DeVilliers - June 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ my sincere sympathy. Howard was my sister Betty's age and I remember him well. We grew up not far apart. He was always a good customer at my bank. The obituary was excellent and I would be interested in buying a copy of his video--my son Mark is a military collector and historian and does displays for veterans groups. He has wonderful collection and is always happy to get local historys. Again, please know that Howard was respected and remembered back home in Henry County. Judy

Judy Farison Heilman - June 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ Larry and family, sorry to hear of your loss, may God strengthen you and give you peace.

Terry Hershberger - June 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ Dear Larry and Family My deepest condolences about the passing of your father. He was a good man and I have treasured memories of my time with Larry and Mr. Knipp. Always went home a little smarter after spending time with him. I pray that you find comfort in your time of grief. Godspeed Howard Earl Knipp.

Dan Grieser - June 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ I was so sorry to hear about the loss of Howard, He was a special guy at Rigden, making me laugh was very special to me well, making everyone laugh!!!He was always there to greet me at 7 a.m. and shortly after would put music on to liven things up!!!! He would always ask me to do the "monkey" dance while he sat at his table eating breakfast!! I will be forever blessed to have gotten to know him. You will be missed by many, the memories will live on. You are in such a better place, but in our hearts also, and we will meet up again!! With all my Blessings and Love, Debbie Chilen

Debbie Chilen - June 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PE

“ Dear Larry, Wanda and Family, So saddened by your loss. I am praying for your family during this difficult time. We love you. John, Paula and family

Paula Eisenhauer - June 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ *Our thoughts and prayers go out to you. Howard was such fun! I'm so glad we were able to meet him and spend some time with him while he was here in Tulsa.*

Cheryl and Richard Anderson - June 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *My prayers are with you all.*

Jan Gilson - June 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *Condolences to the family of a fine man that I got to know through Becky. I didn't meet him often but heard of his virtues through his loving daughter.*

Meg Hamilton Smith - June 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *I am blessed to have known Howard. He was a true "gentle"man.*

Sandra Fite - June 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ *So sorry to hear about Uncle Howards' death, we will keep you in our thoughts and prayers*

Michael Knipp - June 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ *My condolences Becky & Tom.*

Pam Kruse - June 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ My favorite memory with dad was his patience while trying to get me to understand liquid measurements. Not sure if it was really that difficult or if I was just enjoying the "attention" from him. And he made me memorize a poem... "She's somebody's mother boys you know....." I'll miss you dad, Love you, me.

Cori Gerken - June 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ I am sorry to hear about your Dad. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Ruth Wheaton - June 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Kenny, Bonnie, Cori, Becky & Larry my thoughts and prayers are with all of you. May God's army of angels comfort you.

Judy Knipp Hibbard - June 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dear Knipp Family, I'm so sorry about the loss of your Dad, Grandpa and Great Grandpa. He was a very special man; so full of wisdom, kindness and love. I have very fond memories of him that go back to when Bec and I were kids. My prayers are with you all at this time. Love, Jan Fred Stover

Jan Stover - June 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ So sorry for your loss Cory. It sounds like your Dad lived a wonderful life & is resting peacefully in God's hand. Prayers go out to you & your family.

Karen Moore - June 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ Hey Becky and Tom. So very sorry to hear about your dad. He was a very special person and I know he will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Pam Hall Baum

Pam Baum - June 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ MY condolences to Becky and Tom. Saw this on facebook. My thoughts will be with you. Mike K

MIKE KINDINGER - June 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM