



William Dale "Pappy" Heckman

August 26, 1918 - July 24, 2009

William Dale "Pappy" Heckman, 90, of Bluffton, died at 9:25 a.m. Friday, July 24, 2009 at his residence with his family.

Mr. Heckman was born in Adrian, Mich. on Aug. 26, 1918 to William and Ida (Kosher) Heckman. He married Clara Bell Alkire in Butler, Mo. on Aug. 8, 1936; she preceded him in death on July 20, 1998.

Mr. Heckman was the owner and operator of Dales Truck and Auto Repair from 1958 to 1984. He drove for Bi-County Services for 11 years and also drove for the Hoosier Condensory, Renner's Express Trucking, Case Trucking and Doc Smith. He served his country in the U. S. Navy during World War II, and was a member of American Legion Post #111. He was also a member of the Bluffton Fire Department for 22 and a half years.

Surviving relatives include one son, James William Heckman of Albion; three daughters, Sharon (Richard) Bouchez of Bluffton, Carolyn Humann of Bluffton and Debbie Heckman of Houston; 16 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren and 15 great-great-grandchildren.

Mr. Heckman was also preceded in death by one son, Robert Heckman; and two daughters, Emma Mae Nave and Nora N. Heckman.

Calling hours will be from 2 to 8 p.m. Sunday and from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday at the Thoma/Rich, Chaney & Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday, at the funeral home with Bruce Holland officiating. Burial is at Fairview Cemetery, in Bluffton. Graveside Military Rites will be performed by American Legion Post #111 and the U.S. Navy.

Preferred memorials are to the Bluffton Fire Department c/o Robert Heckman Scholarship Fund. The funeral home's Web site is www.thomarich.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 26. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-3850
info@thomarich.com

Visitation

JUL 27. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-3850
info@thomarich.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of William Dale "Pappy" Heckman*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - July 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *William Dale "Pappy" Heckman*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *My Dearest Grandpa*

You are missed so very much

I sit and think about all the times i would go to the garage either on my bike or in the wagon with Debbie pulling us

I remember going to fire calls and watching or going to Fort Wayne to the race track and you would be there with the wrecker. I spent so much time with you and grandma growing up at times i wish i could turn back time and do it all again. I know your in a better place and some day ill be there with you so for now i just have the wonderful memories of you the best grandpa in the world. I love and miss you very much. Your grand daughter Becky

February 23, 2010 at 07:12 PM



“ *Your dad was quite a guy! I still laugh remembering his account of driving to Texas with Red, and what a fit "the kids" had - he snorted and said he had to remind you all "who the dad was". Carolyn, bravo for taking care of your dad to the end - the love between you was easy to see, and you made his last years as positive as they could be. He was a winner. Peace be with you during this awfully lonely time - Ann*

July 30, 2009 at 06:21 AM



“ Pappy will be missed. He was a very good guy.##imported-begin##Christi Reber##imported-end##

July 28, 2009 at 06:21 PM



“ Debbie, my dear friend, your father is at peace now. I hope you and your family will remember all of the wonderful memories you all have created over the years with him. May God grant you peace and comfort during this time.##imported-begin##Linda Wheat##imported-end##

July 28, 2009 at 05:20 PM



“ Dear Sharon and family,

Our deepest sympathy to you on the loss of your father. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Lois Jean & Keith##imported-begin##Lois Jean Gallaway##imported-end##

July 28, 2009 at 04:42 PM



“ I am sorry to hear of your loss. I remeber being in Dale's Truck Service shop many times when I was a kid with my Father, Vaughn. Dale was a tough old guy like my father but with a soft heart and was always ready to help also like my dad. I am sure he is missed by many.

Sincerely, Tim Ormsby##imported-begin##Tim Ormsby##imported-end##

July 27, 2009 at 01:06 PM



“ We are praying for you today as you say goodbye to your father. The Lord brought you all to mind many times today. God bless you.##imported-begin##Tom and Nancy Haiflich##imported-end##

July 27, 2009 at 11:21 AM



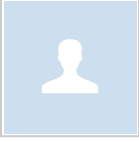
“ Carolyn and Debbie- You did a great job caring for your father. I am glad I got to meet you both and to assist you with you father. My prayers are with you and your family this day. In Christ's Love,
Karen##imported-begin##Karen Garner##imported-end##

July 27, 2009 at 10:10 AM



“ Dear Friends, I am so sorry for your loss and you are all in my prayers. I am living in Tampa and will not be able to attend the funeral but you will be in my thoughts and prayers. Love, Sandy Bevington###imported-begin##Sandy Bevington###imported-end##

July 25, 2009 at 08:36 PM



“ Dad,
I will miss you so much. which I am doing as of now. I listened to the Firemans call about you'r funeral.
It was such an honor that I was able to do the best for you in everyway possible. I am so happy, I was able to keep my promise to you, to stay home until you time. We have so many fond memories of 5 years together that no one else has.
LOVE YOU SO MUCH, Carolyn###imported-begin##Carolyn Humann###imported-end##

July 25, 2009 at 07:02 PM



“ Dear Sharon,

I was sorry to learn of the death of your father. May you remember all the good times and find peace in the fact that his life was long and filled with service to others.

Gene###imported-begin##Gene Kyle###imported-end##

July 25, 2009 at 04:15 PM