



Bernard Sayre

November 14, 2012

Funeral services for Bernard D. Sayre, 83, of Jefferson, will be 10:00am Tuesday, November 20, 2012 at Gospel Open Bible Church in Jefferson. Interment will be in the Scranton Township Cemetery. Friends may call at Slininger-Rossow Funeral Home in Jefferson after 12 noon Monday, November 19, 2012, where the family will greet friends from 6:00 – 8:00pm.

Memorials are suggested to Greene County Medical Center Foundation in both Bernard and Frieda's name.

Bernie was born April 6, 1929 to Walter and Myrtle Sayre in Scranton, Iowa. He passed away peacefully in his sleep November 14, 2012 at Greene County Medical Center.

Bernie was born and raised in Scranton and after graduation from Scranton High School in 1946, he enlisted in the United States Navy where he immediately went to work on a minesweeper sweeping harbors for enemy mines following World War II. He then went on to serve a total of 24 ½ years during three wars on behalf of our country. During his career with the US Navy, Bernie served on several different ships, most notably his final vessel being the aircraft carrier, the USS Saratoga. He was proud of his military service.

In 1949, Bernie began another phase of his life when he married the love of his life, Frieda Strom. This 61-year love affair lasted until October of 2010 when Frieda passed away.

Together they raised and cared for six children and their families.

Upon retirement from the Navy as a Chief Petty Officer in 1971, Bernie moved his family back to Iowa from Toms River, New Jersey. He spent the next phase of his life working at the Jefferson Post Office and as a custodian at both the local middle school and the Greene County Court House. Upon his final retirement, he spent time serving the community, with Frieda, at the local food pantry and with meals on wheels.

He loved tinkering around the house and in the garage, always finding something to do with his hands. He also loved helping, supporting and chauffeuring Frieda, as she was active in many areas of service in and around Jefferson. But one of the things that Bernie most enjoyed was driving around the countryside with Frieda looking for various wildlife, especially the bald eagles that were making a comeback in the area.

His parents, Walter and Myrtle Sayre, brothers, Carl, Howard, James, Marvin, Dale and Maurice and his sister, Lois, precede him in death. His brother, Robert and his sister, Ruthanne, survives him. He will be deeply missed by his sons; Dean (Gail), David (Lori), Donnie (Ann), Danny (Bessie) and Duane (Rachel) and his daughter, Darlene (Marty), 23 grandchildren and 19 great-grand children as well as his faithful dog and friend, Olie.