

Jack R. Thompson (1922-2009)

Jack R. Thompson of Bedford, Indiana and formerly of Liberty, Indiana died February 24, 2009 at Stonebridge Health Campus in Bedford. He was born January 13, 1922 to Ralph and Hazel (Ahlenstorf) Thompson in Cincinnati, Ohio. He graduated from Lockland High School in Lockland, Ohio in 1939 and the University of Cincinnati College of Pharmacy in 1943. He served in the United States Navy as a lieutenant junior grade from 1943 to 1946 where he served in Pearl Harbor, New Hebrides, Guadalcanal and Okinawa.

After his discharge from the Navy in 1946, he was employed by Eli Lilly in Richmond as a pharmacist and medical service representative. In June, 1950 he purchased the Berman Drug Store at the corner of Union and Market Streets in Liberty where he operated the Jack Thompson Pharmacy until the fall of 1967. He went on to spend another 35 years in the pharmacy profession as a hospital and retail pharmacist in Indiana and Illinois including stints at Fayette Memorial Hospital, Reid Memorial Hospital, Henry County Hospital, the University of Illinois Student Health Center and Wal-Mart. He was also a pharmacist at Dunn Memorial Hospital in Bedford for 12 years. His professional career in pharmaceutical related positions spanned 65 years.

While living in Liberty he served multiple terms on the Union County School Board and was a member of Edwards Memorial Methodist Church. He belonged to the Masonic Lodge 14th F and AM, Indianapolis Valley Scottish Rite, Murat Shrine and the Bedford First Presbyterian Church. He enjoyed baseball, trains and writing. He was a contributor to the book "High Mileage Hearts."

He was married to Violet Smith of Bedford on December 15, 1973 in Urbana, Illinois and she survives. Other survivors include daughters Kathie Matney (Richard) of Connersville and Vanessa Hardin (Marc) of Greens Fork, sons Paul of Indianapolis and Jack (Konnies) of Denver, nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at the First Presbyterian Church which is located at 1504 L Street in Bedford on Saturday February 28, 2009. Friends and family will be gathering at 10:00 am and the service will commence at 11:00 am.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Bedford or the Lawrence County Humane Society.

Arrangements are under the direction of Ferguson – Lee Funeral Home of Bedford.