

Donald Lee Beck

U.S. Navy Great Lakes



Donald Lee Beck, U. S. Navy Veteran

Donald Lee Beck was inducted into the U. S. Navy at Great Lakes, Illinois in 1943. He received training as a seaman. Don was discharged in 1943 for injuries received during training.

Don is a member of the World War II Illinois Veterans Memorial and currently serves as a Director.

Don Beck
Rochester, Illinois

ROCHESTER - Donald L. "Don" Beck, 85, of Rochester, formerly of Springfield, died Thursday, May 28, 2009, at St. John's Hospice in Springfield. Born in Belleville on Sept. 20, 1923, the son of John C. and Alice L. Beck, he married Sandra Alexander on July 21, 1962. Mr. Beck graduated from Springfield High School in 1941, then attended University of Illinois in



Champaign. He was a W.W. II veteran serving in the U.S. Navy. He retired from Illinois Bell Telephone Co. in 1986 after 45 years of service. He was a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America and served in many leadership positions, including the Shoe Program and Classroom tutoring at Blackhawk School. Don loved helping others in myriad ways as: President of the Make A Wish Foundation of Central Illinois, 10-year member and past Chief of the Sangamon County Rescue Squad, a volunteer "Red Coat" at Memorial Medical Center for many years, participated in the tutoring program with Enos School, the SIU geriatric Mentor Program for medical students, a docent at the Executive Mansion during the years of Gov. James Edgar and Gov. George Ryan, member of the Holiday Rambler Camping Club, and Cloud 9 Ranch Club in Caulfield, Missouri, a member of the W.W. II Illinois Veterans Memorial Committee and served on the board of directors. He was a member of the South Fork Church of Christ in Rochester, a 32 degree Mason and joined Blue Lodge 71 AF&AM, Springfield Consistory, Ansar Shrine Temple, member of the Shrine Clown Unit and Pawnee OES, and past member of the Elks Club, FOE 437 and American Legion. Survived by his wife, Sandra; sons David (wife, Sally) and Jerry of Springfield, Robert of Tulsa, OK, and Curtis of Portland, OR; daughter Dian Sawyer of New Smyrna Beach, FL, and stepdaughter Dianne Hacker of Springfield; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; one brother, Karl of Toledo, OH; and several nieces, nephews, cousins.