

John R. Burson, age 85, of Kaleva, Michigan died early Friday morning, September 21, 2012 at Country Acres AFC Home in Kaleva.

He was born August 17, 1927 in Manistee, Michigan, son of the late John & Marga ret (Zachow) Burson. He was a graduate of Manistee High School. He honorably served our country as a member of the U.S. Army. Following his military service John returned home to take care of his family. John married Helen I. Eilers on October 1, 1949 in Manistee. She preceded him in death on May 1, 2012, and now they are together again.

John was employed as a butcher at the Manistee A & P store, where he was a devoted A & P employee, working not only at the Manistee store but also spending time in Frankfort, Alpena and Midland A & P's until his retirement from the corporation. John also spent time as Bridge Tender for the Maple Street Bridge in Manistee. John was a faithful parishioner of St. Mary of Mount Carmel Shrine Catholic Church of Manistee. He was a dedicated and active member of the church choir and the St. Mary's Men's Club. John loved to sing. He enjoyed volunteering much of his time lending his voice to the choir and at one time was also a member of the men's vocal Victorian Harmonics. John was also a member of the V.F.W. Walsh Post #4499 of Manistee.

John is survived by 3 sons and two daughters-in-law, Jon & Kim Burson of Meadville, PA, Kyle Burson of Jackson Whole, WY and Kevin & Cindy Burson of Kaleva, MI; 4 grandchildren, Aby Hamilton of Kaleva, MI, Nikki Burson, Austin Burson and John Burson all of Meadville, PA.

In addition to his parents and wife Helen, he was preceded in death by 2 daughters, Lynn Marie Burson in 1959 and Lisa Kay Burson in 1975.

Mass from The Order of Christian Funerals will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 26, 2012, at St. Mary of Mount Carmel Shrine Church in Manistee with Reverend John McCracken celebrant. Burial will follow at Mount Carmel Cemetery also in Manistee where members of the V.F.W. Walsh Post #4499 of Manistee will conduct graveside military honors.

Relatives and friends will pray the Evening Vigil Service at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening, September 25, 2012 at Herbert Funeral Home in Manistee, where friends may begin calling the funeral home Tuesday after 2:00 p.m. The family will be at the funeral home on Tuesday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00 and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. to receive friends.

The Herbert Funeral Home of Manistee is in charge of funeral arrangements.