

Martin L. Kilgore

Kilgore, Martin L. At the age of 98, Martin Kilgore of Spring Arbor, MI stepped into heaven on October 31, 2017. Martin was in Arbor Manor Rehabilitation Center in Spring Arbor at the time of his death. Martin was the youngest child of Samuel Ralph Kilgore and Mary Ann (Hess) Kilgore of Portage, Ohio. Martin was born on March 16, 1919 in their home, and was married in the same room to Erlene (Emans) Kilgore on January 31, 1942. Martin is survived by his constant companion and loving wife of 75 years, Erlene. Martin has two sons, Gary (Mary Beth) of Indianapolis, and Tom (Jann) of Parma, MI. He had six grandchildren: Kara (Dave) Benson of Zionsville, IN, Kevin (Casey) Kilgore of Tifton, GA, Shelby (Andrew) Raines of Parma, MI, Jennifer (Eric) Craft of Lansing, MI, Melissa (John) Moffitt of Spring Arbor, MI, and Teresa Greenslade of Parma, MI. Martin had 14 great grandchildren. He was also loved by his sister-in-law, Amy Roach and many nieces and nephews. Martin graduated from Bowling Green High School in Bowling Green, Ohio. He also had an associate's degree from International Business College in Fort Wayne, IN. Martin was a veteran of World War II, serving in the 199th General Hospital in Rennes, France. His company was in the staging area getting ready to go to Japan when they got the news that Japan had been bombed. Instead of heading west, they headed home to the States. Upon leaving the service, Martin started a grocery store in Van Wert, Ohio. In 1955 he moved his family to Hillsdale, MI to take over Bud's Hamburgers for his sister. In 1966, Martin became the director of food service for Spring Arbor College. He held that position until his retirement in 1982. Martin and Erlene are both long-term members of the Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church. Martin's life has been filled with service for his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. His passion was coming along side those who needed attention. He loved being an encouragement to those who needed a visit to lift them up. Upon retirement, Martin spent a lot of time in his lawn and garden. He also loved to travel with his wife, relatives and friends. He even took up golf for a time. Most of all, he loved others. According to his wishes, Martin will be buried at a family ceremony in the Spring Arbor Cemetery on Friday, 11/3/17 at 11:00 am. A celebration of Martin's life, officiated by Pastor Mark VanValin and Pastor Darold Hill will be held at the Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church Chapel at 11:00 am, Saturday, 11/4/17 with visitation one hour before the service. In lieu of flowers, the family would like any donations to be directed to Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church/International Child Care Ministries.



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