

James Howard Keeney

1916 - 2006

James Howard Keeney, 89, St. Joseph, Missouri, passed away Friday, June 9, 2006, at the Missouri Veterans Home, in Cameron, Missouri. James was born October 11, 1916, in Linn Creek, Missouri, to Samuel A. and Myrtle (Cumper) Keeney. He grew up in Willis, Kansas, and was a graduate of Willis High School. He worked as a cowboy in western Kansas and farm laborer. He joined the Navy in 1938 and served during World War II and during the Korean Conflict. He also served aboard the USS Boston. He retired September 1, 1960, after 22 years of active service. He married Dorothy S. Shermer on August 4, 1951, in Dennisville, New Jersey. Following the service, he worked at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, then worked for Martin Marietta in Haysville, Kansas. He moved to St. Joseph, Missouri, in 1964 and worked for Armour & Co. After his retirement, he farmed and raised cattle. James was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy S. Keeney; his parents; Samuel A. and Myrtle Keeney; sister, Ruthie Keeney; sister, Margaret Kleppe, sister, Alma Rogers, brother, Hadley Keeney, sister, Nellie Jeffrey and brother, Delbert Keeney. Survivors include his daughter, Diane Slayton, Lathrop, MO; son, Malcolm Keeney, Brooker, FL; sister, Helen McConnaughey, Sioux Falls, SD; sister, Gertie Soden, Hiawatha, KS; brother, Robert A. Keeney, Roseville, CA; sister, Evelyn Fisher, Cincinnati, OH and sister, Virginia Keeney, Kansas City, MO; 28 nieces and nephews, and his companion of ten years Marie Lowe. Graveside Military Services: 2:30 p.m. Thursday at Leavenworth National Cemetery, Leavenworth, Kansas. The family will receive friends from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Thursday at the HeatonBowman-Smith & Sidenfaden Chapel in St. Joseph, MO.