



Eugene John

April 26, 1919 - June 25, 2011

Eugene J. May was born April 26, 1919 in Waukon, Iowa. He was the son of John C. and Eugenia Phillips May. He was raised in Waukon where he attended St. Patrick's School. In September of 1940 he joined the United States Cavalry. In December of 1940, he married Betty LaVonne Bloxham. In the summer of '41, the troops rode on horseback from Ft. Riley Kansas to the Rio Grande to settle a border dispute. For that service, he received the American Defense Ribbon. This border dispute turned out to be the final mission of the Horse Cavalry which then became the 9th Armored Division. Eugene spent two years in Kansas training new recruits for warfare and in late 1944, he was sent overseas. His unit immediately engaged in the Battle of the Bulge. So quickly were they dispatched, the soldiers didn't even have time to get their winter clothes. This band of soldiers became known as "The Battling Bastards of Bastogne." Eugene earned a Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars for his efforts at the Battle of the Bulge. He came home on June 23, 1945. Eugene and Betty and their three girls moved to Corvallis in 1948. After moving to Corvallis, they had three more girls. He built them all a beautiful two story home with oak hardwood floors that he installed one board at a time. Eugene was employed as a roofer and heavy machinery mechanic. His family describes him as a hard worker and a good provider—he worked very hard all of his life to provide for his family. He enjoyed gardening and hunting and was devoted to his religion. He had a soft spot in his heart for animals, particularly hound dogs—he was a "dog rescuer" long before it became an everyday term.

He could fix anything and he was always ready to help anyone. That includes all those who considered him their second father.

Preceding him in death are his parents; four brothers Leo, James, Robert and Jerome; four sisters Marcella Fencl, Mary Smith, Catherine May and Teresa May. Eugene is survived by his wife of 70 years, Betty May; his daughters Dorothy Craver, Joyce Beemer, Janet Burgess, Nancy May, Mona Goetzinger and Nina Dornhecker; eight grandchildren Beth, Theresa, Gwen, Ronald, Darren, Dustin, John and Aaron; five great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren; four sisters Esther Smith of Waukon, Patricia Tucker of Waterloo, Iowa, Hazel Morin of Prineville and Joan (Keith) Ewing of Albany; sisters in law Norma May, Helen May and Joan Beckner and many many nieces and nephews. His family loved him very much.

A Memorial Service will be held at 10:00 am ~ Saturday ~ July 16th at McHenry Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

LB

“ I was very fortunate to have the pleasure of meeting you and Gene through genealogy and then in person at a "May" wedding in Waukon several years ago. If it weren't for you and Gene, I would never have had the opportunity of getting to know about this (May)side of my family. Both you and Gene were so warm and welcoming towards me, and I'll never forget either of you. Gene was such a kind, caring and honest man. You all were so very lucky to have him in your lives. My heart and prayers are with Gene and all of you.

GOD bless you all; Lonnie(May)Brinkley

Lonnie (May) Brinkley - July 08, 2011 at 01:10 AM

DW

“ Grand-pa, "My Hero" a man who has done so much and taught us so much too. My service today, was due to his, my love of animals, was due to his. His dedication to his wife, my grand-mother, is why I have dedicated my life to my wife, his love of his daughters, paved the path I walk on for the love of my children. God can only open his arms to my hero, and let him wait for the rest of us to join. I miss you and will always love you.. I will not say good bye, but I will say until I see you again. Watch over us as you always have. "I have the watch now" I love you Grand-pa.

Dustin Wolf - July 02, 2011 at 05:46 AM

KW

“ My prayers are with you & your family for your loss....I didnt know Eugene but have known the May Family (Joan Beckner & children) for many years....

Karen O'Connor - Wood - July 01, 2011 at 03:09 AM

NM

“ *Dad, I will always love you more than you know I cannot be with you for it is too hard to come to grips with, I can't seem to quit crying I just want to die, say hey to Charlie for me Blu and Boomer love you too good bye daddy* ”

Nina May-Dornhecker - July 01, 2011 at 12:59 AM