Obituaries
Story last updated at 1:22 a.m. Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Thomas J. Blancett II


He was born, July 13, 1925, at Pittsburg to Thomas J. and Josephine (Yartz) Blancett. He was a 1942 graduate of Pittsburg High School and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps upon graduation. As a corporal, he had a distinguished service and was honorably discharged in 1946.

While assigned to the 5th Marine Division, he participated in ground combat action during the invasion of Iwo Jima and later in the Allied occupation of Japan. He was awarded numerous medals and ribbons for his military service to his country.

He attended Pittsburg State University following the war before accepting a position with Kansas State Highway Department. He served as a regional sales associate for Metropolitan Life and later was a hospital and medical supply representative for a New York City firm, before establishing his own corporation, Institutional Furnishing & Supply. He went on to own and manage the Arolyn Heights Senior Citizens Care facility in Chanute before selling the company.

He was a Life Member of the American Legion Post 170, where he held the position of Post Commander three times and Third District Commander of Kansas American Legion. He was also a life member of the local VFW Post 1654 and remained active in raising the awareness of citizens by supporting local Veterans Day events and fundraisers. In the 1960s, he helped organize American Legion baseball tournaments in Chanute and announced the games locally. In fall of 2001, he coordinated the establishment of a World War II armored tank memorial at the Chanute American Legion.

He served as a member of the Chanute School Board, USD 413, and later served as president. He served as the Neosho County Republican Chairman in the late 1960s.

In 1950 he married Pearl Alford. She survives of the home.

Survivors also include two sons, Thomas J. Blancett III, of Chesapeake, Va., and Rick M. Blancett of Golden City, Mo.; and two grandsons.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Thursday, March 4, at First Christian Church in Chanute with internment at Chanute Memorial Park Cemetery. The family will receive visitors from 7 to 8 p.m. today at Gibson-Koch-Friskel Chapel of Chanute.

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