



Mr Willie J Meinardus

February 20, 1916 - September 4, 2012

Willie J. Meinardus, age 96, passed away on Tuesday, September 4, 2012, after being hospitalized in Houston. He was the second oldest of eight children and was born on February 20, 1916, on a farm in Walhalla, TX (near Round Top, Tx) to Charlie and Rosa Wozniak Meinardus. He lived and worked on this farm until he moved to El Campo with his wife Marie and young son Lesley to begin work at Elco Mills. He was employed at Elco Mills from 1946-47 and at River Brand Rice Mill as a miller from 1947-1967. He was employed at Ricebelt Warehouse from 1967-1990. For the next seven years and eight months he was employed at Wal-Mart as a door greeter. In September of 1997 he retired from Wal-Mart at the age of 82 to care for his wife. In his spare time and during his early years, Willie sold insurance for the Great American Life Insurance Company. He enjoyed gardening and caring for his pecan trees, and grafted pecan trees in the Wharton County area for several of his friends. Willie was a resident of El Campo for the past 67 years. He loved his family and friends, was a dedicated Republican, and proud of his German heritage. He was a baptized Lutheran and a member of Christ Lutheran Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife of 62 years, Marie Meinardus; two brothers, Emmanuel and Henry Meinardus; two sisters, Elizabeth Polasek and Cecilie Vaclavik.

He is survived by his son, Lesley Meinardus of El Campo and daughter Bernice Turner and her husband, The Reverend Richard Turner of Groves,

Tx; two granddaughters, Anissa Barker and husband Richard of Pflugerville and Karma Shepard and husband Jeremy of Rosenberg; one great grandson, Blaine Barker and a great step granddaughter MyKayla. He is also survived by one brother, Elmond Meinardus of Angleton; sisters, Felicia Chovanec and Sophronia Golleher, both of La Grange; brother-in-law, Richard Vasut of El Campo; numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will begin on Thursday at 2 PM, September 6, 2012 at Triska Funeral Home with the family receiving friends from 5-7PM. Funeral services will be held at 3PM on Friday, September 7 at Christ Lutheran Church with The Rev. Jake Fain and The Rev. Richard Turner officiating. Burial will follow at Garden of Memories cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Leonard Polasek, Michael Chovanec, Don Golleher, Richard Barker, Jeremy Shepard, and Richard Vasut, Jr.

Memorial donations may be made to Christ Lutheran Church.

Tribute Wall

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“ *Uncle Willie, you will be dearly missed, I always remember how kind-hearted and loving you always were. Always a smile on your face.*

To the family...Remember the good ole' days, to keep you comforted when your sad, know that he is with God, and Blessed to be back in the arms of Marie.

Our Prayers to you, we are deeply sorry for your loss.

Diana & Wayne Zabodyn and Family.

Diana Zabodyn - El Campo, TX - neice - September 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM