

Stapleton, Mello "Mel"

MADISON - Mello "Mel" Stapleton, age 87, passed away at his home on Thursday, June 29, 2006. He was born on March 1, 1919, in North Lake, the son of James and Mary (Flynn) Stapleton. He was the last survivor of 10 siblings. In 1962, Mel retired from the United States Air Force, having served in World War II, Pearl Harbor, the South Pacific, the Battle of Midway, Korean War and Guadal Canal. In 1983, he retired from his second career in Emergency Government for the city of Madison and the state of Wisconsin. Mel was a lifelong Democrat and served as County Supervisor in the early 1970s, and as a Senior Statesmen with Congressmen Robert Kastemeier in Washington, D.C. He was also active in numerous local and national political campaigns. He was a member of St. Dennis Catholic Church, Holy Name Society, Madison Elks 410, V.F.W. Post 8483, the American Legion Post 481 and had been active with the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups. Mel is survived by his five children, Colleen (Bob) Blue of Mission, Texas, Lynn (Mike) Turnquist of The Villages, Fla., Dennis (Barb) Stapleton of Brooklyn, Debra (Andy Olsen) Stapleton and Mike Stapleton, all of Madison; seven grandchildren, Tina Foerster, Tammy Foerster-Sweet, Bill Blue, Bob Blue, Mike Stapleton, Heather Stapleton and Amanda Howard; eight great-grandchildren, Callie, Jennifer, Jamie, Jesse, Julia, McKenzie, Adam and Taylor; and a great-great-grandson, Austin. He is also survived by many loving family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; his loving wife of 50 years, Gertrude (Connolly) Stapleton; a loyal friend, Esther James; two sisters; and seven brothers. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at ST. DENNIS CATHOLIC CHURCH, 413 Dempsey Road on Thursday, July 6, 2006, at 10:30 a.m. with Father Brian Wilk officiating. A visitation will be held at the RYAN FUNERAL HOME, 2418 N. Sherman Ave., on Wednesday, July 5, 2006, from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. and at the church on Thursday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of Mass. Burial will follow at Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Elks Charities, 711 Jennifer St., Madison, WI 53703 or the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups, 250 Dairy Drive, Madison, WI 53718. The family would like to extend a special thank you to Tina DeYoung for all her care and friendship given to our father.

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face. May the rain fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again. May the Lord hold you in the hollow of his hand. An old Gaelic Blessing.