

Schwarz Park Blvd. Chapel

Richard D. Kleckner

(June 13, 1931 - March 26, 2013)

Freeport,
Richard D. Kleckner, 81, of Freeport died on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at 1:30 pm at home, surrounded by his family.

Richard was born at home on a farm in Pleasant Valley Township near Stockton on June 13, 1931, the eighth of 11 children of Ernest and Mary (Staub) Kleckner.

Richard attended Neutral Ridge School in Pleasant Valley Township and graduated from Stockton High School in 1950. Richard, a veteran of the Korean War, was stationed at Kunsan Air Force Base, Korea, where he supported the pilots fighting in Mig Alley. Four of his brothers, one sister, and three sons also served in the military and a granddaughter is currently on active duty. He was a proud member of the VFW and American Legion.

Richard married Ruth Broge at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lena on June 15, 1957 and they were married for 55 years. They raised 5 children in Lena before moving to Freeport in 2003.

Richard was a career letter carrier with the United States Post Office in Freeport . After his retirement, he worked for many years as a delivery driver for Deininger Floral in Freeport. He especially loved bringing happiness by delivering flowers.

Richard was a musician his entire life, playing guitar, bass, and banjo in any number of local bands over the years. He was especially fond of traditional country music and singers Johnny Cash and Hank Williams. He can be seen playing the banjo on his 50th wedding anniversary at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CtbbE3rYC4>

. He loved to drop in to visit people unannounced, and loved to host unannounced visitors. And of course he loved to share stories with anyone who would listen.

Surviving are his wife, Ruth; five children, Kevin (Dina) Kleckner of Freeport, Randy of Lena, Wanda (Ed) Gast of Lena, Julie (Rick) Rinderman of Pearl City and Jim (Karen) Kleckner of Freeport; his three sisters, Genevieve Russell of Lena, Vivian Otte of Lena, and Jeanette (Allen) Haas of Savanna.

He is also survived by fourteen grandchildren, Cristen Kleckner, Bryan Kleckner, SN Megan Kleckner, USCG, Jared Kleckner, Linsey Kleckner, Harrison Kleckner, Gabriel Kleckner, Ava Kleckner, Gracie Kleckner, Marilyn Blake, Maddie Kleckner, Lauralee Ils, Brant Rinderman, Kyle Kleckner, Jacob Kleckner, three great grandchildren, William Griffin IV, Kalea Goedken and Jacob Kleckner.

Preceding him in death were brothers, Owen, Allen, Berl, Robert and Donald; sister, Gladys West, and Marjorie Roberts; three sisters-in-law, four brothers-in-law and granddaughter Kirsten Kleckner.

Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday March 31st. The funeral will be held at 10:30 am on Monday, April 1st. Both will be at the Schwarz Park Blvd Chapel. 608 S. Park Blvd. Burial will be at Lena Burial Park. Reception to follow.

A memorial has been established in his memory.

