

December 20, 2005 09:02 am

John 'Jack' Kett Jr.

A memorial service for John "Jack" B. Kett, Jr., 78, of Logansport, will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at Kroeger Funeral Home.

He died at 6:50 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2005, in St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis.

Born Dec. 19, 1926 in Chicago, he was the son of John Bartram Sr. and Ruth Gotshall Kett. On June 26, 1949, he was married at the former Market Street Methodist Church to Doris Elaine Leirer. The ceremony, officiated by former Wheatland Avenue Methodist Church Pastor Lawshe, was held during a record rainstorm of 7 1/2 inches in an hour.

For 29 years, he was employed with Standard Oil Company, later Amoco, in Whiting. He was involved in the construction of the Standard Oil Building in Chicago and worked for many years as an engineer in the Texas City, Texas, Amoco Oil Refinery.

Prior to working with Amoco, he was employed for 7 1/2 years with the New York Central Railroad Engineering Department in Chicago.

He received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Purdue University in 1949. During his college years, he was employed with the Pennsylvania Railroad in the engineering department. He was a 1944 Logansport High School graduate.

Jack played coronet with the Broadway Trumpeteers led by Omer Collens and the Rev. Siberal of the former Broadway Methodist Church, which is now First United Methodist in Logansport.

He enlisted in the Air Force and was honorably discharged before enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 1945. He served aboard the U.S.S. Thomas Jefferson and was honorably discharged in August 1946.

He was a 50-year member of the Tipton Lodge No. 33 F&AM, Logansport, and a life member of Logansport VFW Post 3790. While at Purdue, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

After graduating from college, Jack resided for approximately 50 years in the Miller Beach area of Gary and was an active member of the Marquette Park United Methodist Church. Jack was active in Republican politics in Gary, serving as First District Captain, which covered over 23 precincts in the 1960s.

Surviving with his wife are several cousins and their spouses, Dwight Pierce and his wife, Elaine, Greenwood, Elizabeth Rodenbeck, Honolulu, Hawaii, David and Mary Lou Gotshall, Anderson, Richard and Karen Gotshall, Franklin, Mary Lee and David Baines, Ocala, Fla., and Matthew and Diane Gotshall, Logansport; and nieces and nephews, Robert L. Justice, T. Jonathan Justice, Margaret Dean, Samuel C. Justice, Elizabeth A. Justice and Amy C. Justice.

Burial, with military honors, will be in Mount Hope Cemetery.

Friends may call from 3 to 5 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made Cass County Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 68, Logansport IN 46947.

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