



Edgar O. Beck Funeral Director Community Leader and Musician

Edgar O. Beck, 81, of Garden Spot Village, 433 South Kinzer Avenue, New Holland, died peacefully surrounded by his family on Thursday, August 28, 2008, at the Lancaster General Hospital. Born in Lancaster, he was the son of the late Edgar O., Sr. and Esther Henninger Beck.

Since 1897, the Beck-Henninger families have been involved with providing funeral service in Pennsylvania communities. Ed continued his family's tradition as a sixth generation funeral director. In 1952, he established the Edgar O. Beck Funeral Home in New Holland and was the owner and operator for over fifty years. In his later years, Ed continued his involvement with the Beck Funeral Home Inc. that continues to operate today. Ed was the husband of Mary Jane Redcay Beck and they observed their 61st wedding anniversary in February of this year.

Beck graduated from New Holland High School in 1944 and the U.S. Navy School of Music Washington D.C. in 1945; and served aboard the battleship U.S.S. Alabama in the Pacific during W.W. II and was awarded two battle stars. Following his military service he studied music at Lebanon Valley College. Continuing his education, he received his degree in funeral service from the former Eckels College of Mortuary Science in Philadelphia where he graduated in 1950. He served as president for 35 years of the United Veterans Committee of New Holland, and a leader in the annual Memorial Day services held in a number of communities in the northeast section of the county that he participated in for over 60 years. He was a life member of Conestoga Post 662 American Legion, was past district commander of District 10 American Legion, Charles E. Ludwig No. 7362 V.F.W., Post No. 40 Amvets all of New Holland. Ed was very active with the New Holland American Legion throughout his life and he coached, managed, and sponsored American Legion Jr. baseball in the community for 30 years. A member of St. Stephen United Church Of Christ, New Holland; Ed has been active as a past president, song leader and teacher of the 9:15 Bible class.

Ed was a lifelong proud resident of New Holland with a true love for his community and was known for his tireless faithful work for so many organizations. To many citizens in the greater New Holland area, Ed was affectionately known as 'Mr. New Holland'. Ed served as Vice-Chairman of the Eastern Lancaster County Bi-Centennial Committee and Chairman for the 100th anniversary of the New Holland Borough Incorporation in 1995. His service to the community extended to being involved as a past board director and musician with the New Holland Band, New Holland Midget Association, New Holland Farmers Fair Association, Liberty Fire Company of New Holland, and the New Holland Community Park Board. Additional memberships included the Howell Masonic Lodge #405 F & AM of Honey Brook, the Lancaster Lodge of Perfection, Reading Consistory, Rajah Shrine, Past President of the Lancaster County Funeral Directors Association, a member of the Pennsylvania Funeral Directors Association and the New Holland Kiwanis Club.

For the past several years, Ed has been involved as a director and treasurer for the New Holland Recreation Center and has been part of the planning and financial support committees of the center. Ed loved sports and competition; he had a life long passion for the game of golf and his true joy in life was golfing with his buddies. Ed enjoyed bowling, and listening to patriotic, classical, jazz and big band music. His musical talent served him well for many years. His main interest was the saxophone. In addition, he was a vocalist and played many other instruments.

Surviving in addition to his wife is a daughter, Cathy Jo, wife of J. Richard Eby of New Holland; a son: William E., husband of Susan Miller Beck of Terre Hill, twin sons, Ned, husband of Michelle Mahoney Beck of Lititz, Ted, husband of Connie Meckley Beck of Manheim; five grandchildren: Dr. Jeffrey R. Eby, husband of Dr. Margot T. Kusienski, Kimberley Anne Eby, Jill Suzanne Beck, Aura Lee Beck, Tanner Christian Beck; two great granddaughters, Kendall Elizabeth Eby, Hayden Grace Eby; a sister Jeryldine Wolcott of New Holland.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Ed's funeral and service of

remembrance at the Garden Spot Village Chapel, 433 South Kinzer Avenue, New Holland, on Saturday, September 6, 2008 at 10:00 AM with the Reverend Fred C. Lowery officiating. Interment immediately following in St. Stephen United Church Of Christ Cemetery New Holland with Military honors being accorded by the United Veterans Council of New Holland and the Pennsylvania Army National Guard Military Funeral Honor Guard with assistance of the New Holland Band. There will be a public viewing at the Garden Spot Village Chapel on Friday evening from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM with additional viewing time on Saturday morning at the chapel from 9:00 AM until the time of the service. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to the New Holland Recreation Center (In Memory of Edgar Beck), P. O. Box 546, New Holland, PA 17557. The Buch Funeral Home, Manheim, PA in charge of arrangements.

Theodore J. 'Ted' Beck, Director and staff assisting the family. For further information or to send the family a message of condolence, you may visit our website at www.buchfuneral.com