



Norman B. Slater, Sr.

On July 10, 2008, Norman B. Slater, Sr., 86 yrs, of Narvon, Pa. formally of Lyndell, Pa. passed away to be with other family and friends that preceded him in death. His wife of 64 years, Shirley (Gotshall) Slater was at his side.

Born in Hartford City, Indiana he was the oldest son of eight children of Aaron Burdette and Nora Slater. Norman was raised on a depression era farm in Indiana milking cows for cream and tending the fields with horses. He developed an extensive arrowhead collection while working those fields. He enjoyed rabbit hunting with his father and brothers, while his mother always made sure there was fried rabbit in their school lunch pails. He was a proud graduate of Hartford City High School.

He enlisted in the US Navy in August of 1942 and was a plank owner on the U.S.S. Independence and fought in all major battles across the Pacific to Japan's final surrender.

He received battle citations for Marcus Island, Wake Island, Rabaul, Palau, Phillippines, Okinawa and the battle for Leyte Gulf in which four enemy carriers were sunk.

Norman settled in Pennsylvania after the war and worked in the printing business his entire life. He and his wife raised six children in their Lyndell home in Chester County.

He cultivated a large garden to feed his family, enjoyed game bird hunting with his beloved Irish Setter and was also an avid trout fisherman along the Brandywine River.

He had an artistic flare that he passed on to some of his children and a work ethic he left to all. Norman was a liberated man way ahead of his time. Norman was never afraid to step out of his gender roll. He bathed his children, changed their diapers, cook for them when mom worked nights and scrubbed the floors when they needed it. He loved his grandchildren and helped raised others too.

He retired and lived in Florida. He built his own solar hot water heater in 1977 and helped others to build them too. He enjoyed fishing and raised his own lemons and grapefruit and was famous for his home made lemon meringue pies.

He was truly one of the last of the greatest generation.

He is survived in addition to his wife, by 2 sisters, Alta F. Edie & Nora G. Dryer; a brother, Marion Slater. His children, Norman Slater, Jr., Russell Slater, Karen Watts, Lois Frederick, Linda Rochlin, Bruce Slater. There are 11 grandchildren & 4 great grandchildren.

A memorial service, with military honors will be held on Thursday, July 17, 2008 at 6 PM at the Labs Funeral Home, Inc., 141 Pequea Ave., Honey Brook, Pa. with the Rev. William S. (Bud) Davies, Jr. officiating. Interment will be private. The family will receive friends from 5:30 to 6 PM at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers and at the request of the family, memorial contributions may be made in the memory of Norman to His Wings Aviation Ministries, 148 Schoolhouse Road, Cogan Station, PA 17728. This non-profit charitable organization was accommodating to the Slater family, by providing air transportation at a time of need.