



Ira Lee Ketchum, Sr

September 23, 1921 - October 15, 2004

Ira Lee Ketchum, Sr., 83, went home to be with the Lord Friday, October 15, 2004. He was a native of Portsmouth, served our country in the Navy during WWII, retired from the Naval Air Station as an Electronics Technician, and was a member of Churchland Assembly of God.

He was predeceased in death by a son, Ira Leroy Ketchum, Jr. Survivors include his wife, Lucille R. Ketchum, two daughters, Doree Mason and her husband, Sandy; Deborah Nagy and her husband, Rodney; two sons, Rodney Ketchum, Donald White and his wife, Peggy; daughter-in-law, Dorothy H. Ketchum; 15 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held 2 pm Monday in Churchland Assembly of God by Rev. Larry E. O'Brien with burial in Greenlawn Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends Sunday from 4 to 6 pm in Loving Funeral Home, Churchland Chapel.

Tribute Wall



“ I met Ira in the Platform Shop in 1974 when I was an apprentice there at the old NADEP. He would become one of my best friends. I'll always remember his happy-go-lucky demeanor and his engaging laugh. I only regret that I learned of his death on the same day as his funeral and could not attend. He was a WW2 veteran and the only Navy man that I know of, who was assigned to an Army unit in North Africa. He was on leave and didn't get back in time to his ship for its sudden departure. He was then assigned to an Army unit and served as a machine gunner in the battle for North Africa. He told a lot of stories of his hardships and his fear of dying during the war, never any tales of his exploits, and mostly only amusing things that happened to him. It was there that he said he lost all of his hair because of the hot sun beaming down on his helmet. At war's end he was completely bald at the age of 24. I'll always remember how he would call in sick and be out all day but manage to come in at 3:00 PM to work the 2 hours of overtime. What a schmoozer!

I last saw him in November 1985 at the Pizza Hut in the Churchland section of Portsmouth. I had only been married 2 months and my young bride and I were busy working on a huge pizza. I kept looking over at this guy, and he was doing the same at me, but neither of us said anything. It just so happened that we both left at the same time. It was in the parking lot that I broke the ice and asked him if he was Ira Ketchum. He was, and I introduced myself and my new bride to him and his wife, Lucille. He told me that his youngest daughter, Debby had re-married and had a new baby. He introduced Debby to me back in 1974. Debby and I dated off and on over the years, but we were always just good platonic friends. We never did have any romantic notions for one another, much to Ira's chagrin because I think he always hoped we'd get together. Then one day, one of Debby's old beaus came back into her life and soon married. A year later, I would meet the girl of my dreams and also marry.

I was just thinking last week of Ira and our meeting at Pizza Hut so many years ago. It must have been a foretelling. I will miss him, but he is with the Lord now and in a better place. Rest in peace, old friend.##imported-begin##Rick Lentz##imported-end##

October 19, 2004 at 12:00 AM



“ *Grandmama, We just wanted you to know,we love you and we are here if you need us. We love you always, Denise & Danny##imported-begin##Danny & Denise Carrow##imported-end##*

October 16, 2004 at 12:00 AM