

HARRIS F. BABLER

Dec. 31, 1916 - Jan. 15, 2011

Marshfield-Harris F. Babler, age 94, of Marshfield, died on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011, at Marshfield Care Center.

Harris was born on Dec. 31, 1916, in Monticello to Henry and Rose (Zimmerman) Babler. He was educated through the eighth grade in Elmer Rural School. He graduated from Monticello High School in 1933. He then attended Lakeland College (formerly Mission House College) from 1933 through 1936 and then transferred to the University of Wisconsin where he graduated with a bachelor of science degree in dairy science and economics. He was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho Iota Chapter where he served as noble ruler.



Harris went to work for U.S.D.A. Commodity Credit Cheese in Chicago. He traveled through the Midwest grading and inspecting cheese to be shipped to England.

He enlisted in the quartermaster corps on April 15, 1942, at Francis G. Warren, Cheyenne, Wyo. Later he transferred to the United States Air Force at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., stationed at Lubbock Air Base and Randolph Field, Texas. He then entered OCS at Miami Beach, Fla., graduating in December 1942 as a 2nd lieutenant. He was assigned to the 11th Air Force, Aleutian Theatre, Elmendorf Field, Anchorage, Alaska in January 1943 and served as air transport officer during the Attu and Kiska invasion. He returned to Wisconsin on leave in June 1944 and on June 10 he and the former Bonnie Bechtolt were united in marriage in Monroe. He returned to Umnak Island Base until December 1944. He then transferred to Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas with A.T.C. and returned to Wisconsin in March 1946 and was separated as captain on April 15, 1946. He resumed employment with U.S.D.A. In December 1946 he began employment for the Borden Company in Marshfield as procurement manager. He was a member of the Wisconsin Cheese exchange. He retired from the Borden Co. in 1980.

Harris was a member of the First Presbyterian Church where he served on the session and board of deacons. He served on the Marshfield school board. He was a former member of the Noon Rotary Club where he served as president, a member of the American Legion Post 54 and the Marshfield Elks Lodge 665.

He is survived by his wife, Bonnie; and a daughter, Jill Babler McCullagh of Denver, Colo.; son-in-law, Chris (and the late Barbara) Vollrath of Denver, Colo.; and seven grandchildren, Scott (Annika) Young of Denver, Colo., Tyler McCullagh of Tucson, Ariz., Ross McCullagh of Chicago, Ill., Christopher Traczyk and Heather Traczyk both of Denver, Colo., Gretchen (Jason) Vollrath-Sharkey of Madison, and Martha (Matt) Vollrath-Mathiason of Denver, Colo. He is also survived by three great-grandchildren, Alexandra Young, Erik Young and Hollie Young of Denver.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two daughters, Marijane Babler Traczyk in 1996 and Barbara Babler Vollrath in 2005; a son-in-law, Drew McCullagh in 2008; his sister, Bernice Babler; and brother, Willis Babler.

A memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011, at the FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Marshfield. The Rev. Kevin Buchanan will officiate and Deb Murrell will be the organist for Gary Mauritz as soloist and congregational singing. Private family committal services will take place in Hillside Cemetery and military rites will be conducted by the American Legion Post 54 of Marshfield prior to the service. The family will receive relatives and friends from 10:30 a.m. until service time at the FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Rembs Funeral Home is assisting the family.

The family wishes to thank the staff at the Marshfield Care Center. Thanks to the faithful friend John for spending Thursdays with Harris and Mary and Roy who read to Harris, also the Johnson boys and friends and neighbors who visited.