

Russ Burfening - BS 1943 Pharmacy

Russ R. Burfening age 93 of Grand Forks, ND passed away on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at Valley Eldercare in Grand Forks, ND.

Russ Robert Burfening was born on June 11, 1921 in Fargo, ND the son of Russell P. and Augustina (Dobler) Burfening. Russ attended Central High School in Fargo, ND. Following his high school graduation he attended NDSU where he played basketball and earned a BS in Pharmacology, graduating in 1943. He joined the United States Army in 1943 and was a 1st Lieutenant in the 164th Infantry in the Philippines. Upon his discharge from the military in 1946, he moved to Grand Forks, ND and worked for Upjohn Pharmaceutical, retiring in 1980. On June 16, 1970, he was united in marriage to Audrey Larson in Detroit Lakes, MN. Russ officiated for the North Central Conference College and High School football and basketball teams. He played softball from 1948 - 1962 and was inducted into the North Dakota Amateur Softball Hall of Fame in 1969. He was also inducted into the North Dakota officials Association Hall of Fame in 1985. Russ was the longest active member of the Grand Forks YMCA. Russ was the timer for UND basketball and football for many years. In 1980, Russ was the Honorary Basketball Official for UND.

Russ is survived by his wife Audrey of Grand Forks, ND; son, Michael (Colleen) Burfening of Grand Forks, ND; five grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren; sister, Rita (Tom) Brouillard of Northridge, CA and brother-in-law, John (Elaine) Poole of Santa Barbara, CA along with many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Susan Burfening Bakke; step-sons, Chuck Bushee and Donald Bushee; sister, Mary Poole; grandson, Robert "Robbie" Burfening.

Memorial are preferred to Valley Eldercare, Altu Hospice, or the University of North Dakota Athletics Department.

Memorial Service: 7:00 PM on Monday, March 9, 2015 in Mendenhall Presbyterian Church, 528 10th St. NW, East Grand Forks, MN.

Visitation: 5:00 to 7:00 PM on Monday, March 9, 2015 in Mendenhall Presbyterian Church

Interment: Lakeside Cemetery ~ Minneapolis, MN in the spring.