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Kleppinger Funeral Home

409 Broadway Jewell, Kansas 66949

Phone: (785) 428-3221

George Jay Barta - JEWELL

George Jay Barta, 88, passed away at his home in Jewell, KS on January 1, 2015. His parents were George John Barta & Vlasta Laverne Doubrava and he was born on January 4, 1926 at Ellsworth, KS. George had 1 brother Kenneth R., & 4 sisters Kathryn A., Vivian L., Rosemary, & Marjorie M. George graduated from Ellsworth High School in 1944. He joined the Army Air Corps-Photo intelligence and received military training at Amherst, MA; and was a non-commissioned officer stationed in Washington, D.C. He was discharged in 1946. George married Marceline (Siebenlist) Barta on March 31, 1945. They were married 58 years. To this union were born Marsha L., George Max, Mark S., & Millie C.

George received a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from K-State University in 1954. He taught school at Wilson, KS & Kannapolis, KS where he also was principal. He left the teaching field and started to work in Ellsworth. He was asked to open a Motor Parts store and did well. An opportunity came up to purchase the Wilson Abstract Company, in Ellsworth, which he and Marceline ran for 35 years, and also opening another title company in Great Bend, KS.

His family meant a lot to him. He enjoyed working and playing with his children and grandchildren. George was a member and a Post Commander and also a Chaplain of the American Legion Post 174, Ellsworth and Post 72 in Jewell. He was the Sixth District Commander in 1985 and a member of 40 & 8. He was a board member of the St. Francis Boys Academy in Salina & Ellsworth. George was a member in "good standing" for 38 years of the Masons.

George was a Boy Scout, a high school athlete (as a distance runner) & a state champion, miler (1944). He also was a member of Mariners, which was a married couple's church group. He was a KSHSAA football, basketball and wrestling official and served as President of the Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce & also a member of Jewell Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of KLTA (Kansas Land Title Association) and a member of the Wilson Presbyterian Church. He was a deacon of Ellsworth Presbyterian Church & attended the Jewell Trinity United Methodist Church. He was a Sunday School teacher & member of Men's Bible Study at various locations. He enjoyed being a substitute teacher at Ellsworth where he was nicknamed "Mr. Monopoly" because he had a mustache, glasses & always wore a hat. He was a member of a Barbershop chorus, and a member of the Kansas State Alumni Association. He was a member of the Ellsworth Fine Arts Society & the Ellsworth County Historical Society. He represented Jewell County as a Silver-Haired legislator and an advocate for Kansas Agency on Aging. George was a regular Blood donor of the American Red Cross and also delivered meals on wheels.

He enjoyed woodworking, outdoor activities, watching Kansas State sports, listening to music. He was bilingual, learning Czech at home, before he went to school.

..... A life well lived.....

Preceding George in death were his parents George & Vlasta, wife Marceline; son Mark, son-in-law Keith Ericson, brother Kenneth and sister Marjorie Barta.

He is survived by daughters Marsha Ericson of Jewell, KS, Millie and husband Michael Bickford, Holton, KS, a son George Max & wife Cynthia of Shawnee Mission, KS; 8 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren; 3 sisters Kathryn & husband Loren Dees of Ellsworth, Vivian & husband Fred Peppiatt of Ellsworth, & Rosemary & husband Ted Morris of Utah.

Funeral arrangements were handled by Kleppinger Funeral Home, 409 Broadway Jewell, KS. Memorial service was held Monday, January 5, 2015 at 11:00 am, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Jewell, KS. Inurnment will be at a later date at Ellsworth Memorial Cemetery. Memorials may be dedicated to Trinity UM Church, Jewell, KS; First Presbyterian Church, Ellsworth, KS; American Legion Post 72, Jewell or Post 174, Ellsworth.