

James W. Gast

James W. Gast, 85, of St. Henry, passed away Thursday, March 1, 2007, at Briarwood Manor Nursing Home.



He was born March 12, 1921, in Celina, a son of Lewis and Leona (Beckman) Gast, and they preceded him in death.

On Nov. 4, 1950, he married Beatrice Froning, and she survives.

He is also survived by three sons, Drs. Thomas (Tracy) Gast of Bloomington, Ind., Joseph Gast of Seattle, Wash., Dan (Becky) Gast of Celina; two daughters, Susan (Paul) Wirtz of Worthington, Paula (Rocket) Renger of St. Henry; two brothers, William (Gerry) Gast of St. Henry, John (Marty) Gast of Fort Meyers, Fla.; a sister, Jean (Jack) Bergman of St. Henry; a brother-in-law, Dr. Louis Froning of Coldwater; a sister-in-law, Joan (Mark) Wenning of St. Henry; eight grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, a brother, Robert; brother-in-law, Maurice Froning; and sister-in-law, Marge Gast preceded him in death.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, serving as a 2nd lieutenant. He served as chaplain for the St. Henry American Legion Post.

He was appointed to the board of governors for Joint Township Community Hospital, served on the board of the Blue Cross of Lima, was past president of the Ohio Cannery and Food Processors Association, an avid gardener and an active member of the St. Henry Kiwanis Club.

He was a graduate of St. Henry High School and attended Miami University. He was a member of St. Henry Church.

He was co-owner of Beckman and Gast Canning Company, and served as president until his retirement in 1983.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, March 5, 2007, at St. Henry Church in St. Henry, with the Rev. Larry Wyen officiating. Burial, with military rites conducted by the St. Henry American Legion, followed at St. Henry Cemetery in St. Henry.

Hogenkamp Funeral Home in St. Henry was in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be made at www.hogenkampfh.com.