



Ralph Wilson Gates

November 16, 2009

Surfside Beach Ralph W. Gates, Sr. Ralph W. Gates, Sr. 94, husband of Patricia Wheeler Gates, passed away at home, Monday, November 16, 2009 after a long illness. Ralph was born September 10, 1915 in Holyoke, MA to the late Ralph F. Gates and Rebekah Gates. Raised in Springfield, MA, he was a veteran serving in the U.S. Armed Forces in Germany during World War II. After 44 years, he retired from Monsanto Chemical Company in Springfield, MA. He was happily married to Patricia for 68 years. Married in Dillon, SC on August 30, 1941, they honeymooned in Myrtle Beach where they vowed to one day retire. After residing in Ludlow, MA for 54 years, they moved to Surfside Beach and happily spent the last 14 years. Ralph loved the ocean, gardening and watching his birds. He was a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Surfside Beach, SC. He was preceded in death by two grandchildren, Kenneth Latour, Jr. and Rebekah Gates. Ralph will be greatly missed by his loving wife, Patricia; one daughter, Judith Latour and husband Kenneth of Myrtle Beach; one son, Ralph W. Gates, Jr. and wife Rosemarie of Springfield, MA; five grandchildren, Sandra Jarvis and Scott Latour of Myrtle Beach, Ryder Tietz of Brimfield, MA, Renata Gates and Angela Roy of Springfield, MA; six great-grandchildren, Amy Jarvis, Kassandra, Carrie and Kenneth Latour Emaree and Kaylin Tietz; three great-great-grandchildren; two sisters, Naomi Matthews and husband Robert of Vermont and Mary Spencer and husband James of CT. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM Friday, November 20, 2009 at Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel with

Reverend Preston Shealy officiating. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Family will receive friends from 4:00-6:00 PM Thursday, November 19, 2009 at the funeral home. Sign a guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com Memorials may be made to, Shriners Hospital 950 West Farris Rd. Greenville, SC 29605. Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ I will never forget camping in your back yard in the pop up camper. That is why i love camping so much to this day. We will miss you. Love Ryder and family.##imported-begin##Ryder "Gates" Tietz##imported-end##

December 03, 2009 at 12:38 PM



“ Dearest Mrs. Gates, Judy, Ralph and family, My sincerest condolences go out to you all. There are no words to say how much Mr. Gates and you, Mrs. Gates, have meant to me. I so cherish the recent memories of when you were so gracious to have us spend time in your home two years ago when we were returning home from vacation. Know that I will keep Mr. Gates in my prayers and in my heart.##imported-begin##Barbara St. Jacques##imported-end##

November 20, 2009 at 06:47 PM



“ My Condolences.##imported-begin##Kassandra Latour##imported-end##

November 19, 2009 at 09:49 AM



“ Judy, Sending you love and the hope that you will be able to remember all the good times and things that you did with your Dad. Give our condolences to your Mom, your kids, grandkids and brother. Cindy and Bob##imported-begin##Cindy Watson##imported-end##

November 18, 2009 at 04:33 PM