



Thomas A. Gehring

September 18, 2009

Conway, SC--Thomas A. Gehring, 85, died peacefully with his loving girls at his side, on Friday, September 18, 2009, at 9:40PM in the hospital. He is whole once more, no longer blind and unable to walk he joined those he's loved and lost with our heavenly Father. Waiting for him include his parents, Paul D. and Margaret A. Gehring, his older sister Hughannie Gehring Young and his younger brother William C. Gehring all from the Pittsburgh area of Pennsylvania. Mr. Gehring was born in Aliquippa, PA, but traveled the world while serving in the US Navy almost 25 years. He first joined as a 17 yr. old in 1942, was honorably discharged, then re-entered in 1951 to further serve his country. He retired in Virginia Beach, from the USS Atakapa as a Chief Quartermaster. He was a Veteran of WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Grenada. After retiring from the US Navy, he worked for the US Postal Service until he was forced to retire due to his physical limitations. He spent the next dozen or so years involved as Scoutmaster for both of his sons. He loved to build and was a master craftsman in woodworking, especially, when it came to making classic wooden toys for his eight grandchildren. He also repaired and made furniture for his family. He did all additions and remodeling on the family home in Virginia Beach, including his children's! Mr. Gehring loved family gatherings, the great outdoors, animals, music, and dancing. He loved to make folks laugh, and was always successful in doing so. He also loved the Pittsburgh Steelers. Surviving are his wife of 62 years , Erma J. Kleitz Kather Gehring of Virginia Beach, VA; two daughters, Deborah A. Gehring King Duty of Virginia

Beach, VA. And Georgia G. Johnson and husband Lex of Conway, SC; two sons, Tommy A. Gehring of Smithfield, VA. And David A. Gehring of Virginia Beach, VA. He was lovingly named Poppy, when first granddaughter Rebecca J. King Maccubbin of Chesapeake, VA arrived. Listed in order of their birth came seven more grands!, Lex O. Johnson II of Myrtle Beach, SC who was born in Scotland not far from where Poppy's beloved mother was born and raised, Heather A. Duty McNichols of North Wales, PA, Tommy A. Gehring II of Richmond, VA, Brett C. Johnson of Conway, SC, Julie A. Gehring Beaudin of Omaha, NE, Jessica M. and Lauren K. Gehring of Virginia Beach, VA.; the blessing of five great grands, Breanna M. and Colin W. Maccubbin, Brendan S. and Mara S. McNichols and Adalea E. Beaudin. Funeral services in Virginia Beach, VA are incomplete at this time.