

Emil "Kris" Kristoff, 1920-2011

NILES - Emil R. "Kris" Kristoff, 91, died at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 19, 2011, at Autumn Hills Nursing Home, following an extended illness.

He was born March 15, 1920, in Yonkers, N.Y., the son of Andrew and Elizabeth Soltis Kristoff, and moved to this community in 1954.

A graduate of Gorton High School in Yonkers, he attended Iona College.

A United States Army veteran of World War II from Oct. 30, 1942 to Oct. 12, 1945, he served in England, France, Belgium and the Battle of the Bulge, and was awarded four Bronze Stars for his honorable service. He served in the Army Signal Corps as a radioman and notably participated in "Operation Fortitude South" to deceive Nazis about the D-Day invasion plans, "the biggest hoax of the war."

He retired in 1984 as an insurance investigator for Allstate Insurance Co. and was a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and the American Legion.

Emil is survived by two sons, Richard E. (Janet) Kristoff of Farmington, Mich., and Kevin R. Kristoff of Niles; two grandchildren, Erin (Duane) Miller of Waterford, Mich., and Ryan Kristoff of Farmington, Mich.; two great-grandchildren, Avery and Reid, and a sister, Billie Nash of Port Orange, Fla.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Audrey Brown Kristoff, whom he married July 22, 1945, and who died June 6, 2011; a brother, Richard Kristoff, and two sisters, Anne Kristoff and Elsie Begany.

A Service of Christian Burial will be 1 p.m. Saturday at Holeton-Yuhasz Funeral Home, where calling hours will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. The Rev. Larry Frient will be celebrant. Burial will be at Niles City Cemetery.

Funeral for Emil Kristoff known as Kris

Born: March 15, 1920 Died: July 19, 2011 Funeral: July 23, 2011

Readings: Wisdom 3:1-9 Psalm 23 Revelation 14:13 John 14:1-6

On behalf of everyone belonging to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, I extend my condolences to Kris' family and assure you of our prayers. We know it has been very difficult recently with the illnesses and passing of both Audrey and Kris. We place our trust in the Lord who is able to alleviate their suffering and unite them with a joy that no one can possibly take from them.

The Scriptures chosen for today's service remind us that the souls of the just are in the hand of God and no more torment shall touch them. The good works of a person follow him after he has died. Jesus has prepared a place for people of faith.

We give thanks for the many ways Kris touched so many lives during his more than 91 years of living.

When I used to visit him and Audrey on North Bentley Avenue, Kris used to talk about his Slovak background, growing up in New York, and serving in the United States Army during World War II.

Kris served our country as a radioman and notably participated in "operation Fortitude South" to deceive Nazis about D-Day invasion plans. He earned bronze stars and a good conduct medal in the course of his service. This experience was such an important part of his life, and all of us owe a great deal of gratitude to "The Greatest Generation" who enabled us to be free.

Years ago, Kris enjoyed playing golf and fishing. He liked to cheer for the New York Yankees. After moving to this community in 1954, he enjoyed helping his sons participate in the activities of the Boy Scouts. He earned his living as an insurance investigator for All State Insurance Company and belonged to the American Legion.

Music was an enriching part of Kris' background. He enjoyed the Big Band Era and was very talented as a violinist and pianist. I've been told that during World War II, his musical talents enabled him and his friends to obtain a number of free drinks in the various places they stopped along the way.

Kris and Audrey traveled to Scotland and France to reconnect with some of the people he had met during the war.

Now that Kris and Audrey's travels through this life have ended, we entrust them to the everlasting care of the Lord. We believe that just as they have shared in the sufferings of Christ by means of the crosses of failing health during recent times, they share in rising to new life with Jesus just as the Lord promised.

May our memories of them be blessed and cherished, and may the Lord guide us in His ways of love all our days.