

Blaine E. McDowell

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Blaine E. McDowell, 80, of La Crosse died on Monday, March 28, 2011, at the Bethany St. Joseph Care Center after a seven-year battle with liver disease.

He was born on Aug. 12, 1930, in De Soto, to Charles E. and Elsie H. (Groves) McDowell. Blaine graduated from Viroqua High School in 1948 and moved to La Crosse in 1951. He married Patricia Kubiak on Feb. 16, 1957, in Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. Blaine had worked in accounting and purchasing at Trane Co. for 15 years. He then worked at Norplex for 15 years and then in insurance sales for many years until his retirement. Blaine and Pat loved traveling in their motorhome and wintering in Texas. Blaine enjoyed working outside in the yard, woodworking and making crafts. He also loved spending time with his grandkids and attending their activities and sporting events. Blaine was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the International Lion's Club, Wesley United Methodist Church, the La Crosse Chamber of Commerce, and the La Crosse County Taxpayer's Association. He served as President of the Wisconsin Taxpayer's Conference for one year and as the Town of Shelby Supervisor for ten years. He also held numerous offices with the Lion's Club and served on various committees at Wesley United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia; two daughters, Patrice (Sam) Fellows of La Crosse and Debran (Michael) Topel of Janesville, Wis.; five grandchildren, Samuel Fellows IV of La Crosse, Tyler Fellows (friend Linnea Maxey and her daughter Calie McFerrin) of Omaha, Neb., and Sierra Fellows (friend Joe Branson) of La Crosse and Micah and Jonah Topel of Janesville; a brother, T. Frederick "Fritz" (Mae) McDowell of Onalaska; three sisters, Elsie McDowell of La Crosse, Ruby (Barry) Shaw of Waupaca, Wis., and Ruth Freiheit of Benbrook, Texas; a brother-in-law, Robert Dietrich of Dodgeville, Wis.; four sisters-in-law, Bev McDowell of La Crescent, Minn., Rosemary "Katie" Cook of Winona, Minn., Shirley (Jerry) Weis of La Crosse and Sandy (Lyle) Quillin of La Crosse; numerous nieces; and nephews; and close family friends, Sam and Mae Ames.

He was preceded in death by six sisters, Alberta McDowell, Jennie McDowell, Jessie McDowell, Etta McDowell, Beulah Dietrich and Alida Sallander; three brothers, John Ivan McDowell, Hugh McDowell and C. Maurice McDowell, his parents; and a brother-in-law, Robert Freiheit.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 2, at the Schumacher-Kish Funeral Home of La Crosse. Pastor Scott McMurray will officiate. Friends may call from 10 a.m. until the time of services on Saturday at the funeral home. Blaine's cremated remains will be scattered in his hometown of De Soto. Memorials may be given to the UW-Madison Hospital Transplant Program, Attn: Colleen Fraser, 600 Highland Ave., Madison, Wis., 53792-8350, Restoring Hope Transplant House, 7457 Terrace Ave., Middleton, Wis., 53562, restoringhope@tds.net, the Franciscan Skemp Hospice Program, Lion's Club, or American Diabetes Association. The family would like to give a special thank-you to Dr. John Teske at Franciscan Skemp Medical Center. Online guestbook is available at www.schumacher-kish.com.