



# **Basil Edward French**

MAY 9, 1927 - MAY 14, 2019



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## **Basil Edward French**

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**B**asil Edward French, 92, of Decatur, passed away Tuesday, May 14, 2019. Basil was born May 9, 1927, in Jasper County, IL, the son of Elmer Russel and Bertha (James) French. Basil served his country in the Navy during WWII and is an over 50 year member of the American Legion 105 and over 20 year member of the Moose Lodge 684. He retired from Bemco Mfg after over 35 years as manufacturing superintendent. Basil is also a charter member of Holy Family Catholic Church of Decatur. He loved to fish and grow vegetables in his garden.

Basil married Clara Ann Gebke on February 20, 1952 in Lebanon, IL. They celebrated 60 wonderful years of marriage before she passed away July 31, 2012.

They have four sons Larry (Pam), Jeff (Denise), Phil (Kathy), and Ron (Donna), nine grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren. Basil had three sisters. Genevieve and Frieda preceded him in death; Irma survives.

Mom and Dad are now dancing in heaven.

The celebration of life service will be held at Holy Family Church at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 18, 2019. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Immediately following will be the graveside service at Mt. Gilead Cemetery. Memorials are suggested in lieu of flowers to Holy Family School or American Cancer Society. Please view the online obituary, send condolences, and share memories at [www.gracelandfairlawn.com](http://www.gracelandfairlawn.com).



## Tribute Wall

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GS

**Gloria Stephens** posted:

Condolences from the Winholtz Family We all have fond memories and great admiration for your Father and Mother. Remember well the fun times enjoyed in our childhood when our Fathers worked together and our family's would get together. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Gloria Stephens of Roanoke VA, Nancy Craker of Nampa ID, Steve Winholtz of Rantoul IL, Gary Winholtz dec. 12/14/12

May 18 at 12:58 PM

JF

**Jerry & Sandy Friesner** posted:

BASIL HAS BEEN A DEAR FRIEND-ESPECIALLY TO JERRY! THEY WORKED TOGETHER FOR 7EARS AT BENDER BROS WHICH BECAME BENCO. JERRY MOVED ON HOWEVER BUT THEY STAYED IN TOUCH, INCLUDING BASIL CALLING JERRY EVERY MAY 9TH! THEY WERE 'TWINS' -JUST 10 YEARS APART. BASIL WAS THE NICEST MOST CONSIDERATE MAN WITH A FUN HUMOR. HE WILL DEFINITELY BE MISSED. LOVE PRAYERS SYMPATHY TO EACH OF HIS FAMILY AS WELL AS MANY FRIENDS!

May 18 at 4:20 AM

SB

**Sally Ballinger** posted:

My family lived across street from 1964 we ate many of Basil's tomatoes and zucchini's thru the years he is already missed when he moved earlier this year yes I'm sure he and Clara are dancing across Heaven as they loved to dance down here

May 16 at 11:15 AM

SH

**Susan Howland** posted:

Basal was such a great neighbor! He tilled my garden and was willing to help or let me borrow anything. He took great care of his wife always smiling and patient! He always said to come check on him if his curtains in TV weren't opened. He will always be in my heart!

May 16 at 10:11 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Basil by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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