

Frederick James

'Fred' Brown

Jan. 7, 1921 - Feb. 3, 2019



Lifetime Fulton County resident, Frederick James "Fred" Brown, 98, departed this life at 3:55 a.m. on Feb. 3, 2019, at Woodlawn Hospital, Rochester. This followed a brief illness.

On Jan. 7, 1921, Frederick James Brown was born in Fulton County. He was a treated son of Eugene and Nancy Ella Winn Brown.

Fred was one of 10 Brown children, sharing his childhood with five sisters and three brothers. During his formative years, he learned a strong work ethic growing up during the Depression years.

A member of the Greatest Generation, Fred answered the call of duty, serving our country during World War II with the United States Army from 1942-1946. During his stint of service, he was stationed in New Guinea, Luzon, Korea and the Philippines.

During this time, he was in continuous combat for 112 days on the shores of the Lingayen Gulf, Luzon and Cabaruan Hills, Philippines. Prior to his honorable discharge on Dec. 22, 1945, he ascended to the rank of sergeant of Company G, 1st Infantry.

Sgt. Fred J. Brown was highly decorated, earning 3 Bronze Star Medals, the Sharpshooter Rifle Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, WWII Victory Medal, American Theater Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon.

At Richland Center, Fred married Geraldine Briney on Nov. 11, 1951. From their union came three wonderful children, David, Nancy and Larry. The family tree continued to grow with the added blessings of two more generations.

As an entrepreneur, Fred owned and operated a Mobil fuel route for City Service, delivering gas, oil and diesel to his customers from 1951 through 1984. During this time, he garnered many friendships with his diverse customer base. After 30-plus years, he sold the company to Farm Bureau Co-Op of Rochester.

An esteemed community leader, Mr. Brown served Fulton County as commissioner and drainage board member, both from 1975-1983, a four-year member of the Rochester School Board and on the Rochester Water Board for 8 1/2 years and the Fulton County Alcohol and Beverage Commission 2003-2017. He was past president of the Northwest County Commissioners, consisting of 16 counties.

Mr. Brown's memberships include those of a 60-year member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge, the Eagles Lodge No. 852, LeRoy C. Shelton American Legion Post 36 and the Manitou VFW Post

No. 1343.

To relax, Fred enjoyed 25 years of experiences and adventures, heading to the golf course to have fun with his friends on local greens. He was an accomplished kiegler, bowling for more than a half century. He played in many competitive tournaments all over the United States with his friends, Joe Quick, Bob Wagoner, Dick Newell and Bob Delp.

Paramount in Fred's life was his family. As the patriarch, Grandpa Fred was proud to oversee four generations. He loved family get-togethers, the holidays and special family celebrations. Many memories were made just a few weeks ago, with his family celebrating his 98th birthday, complete with a pizza party and cake.

Left to cherish the memory of Fred are his three children, David A. Brown, Rochester, Nancy Tilden and husband Jeff, Akron, and Larry Brown and wife Shalle, Huntington; three grandchildren, Ryan Tilden and wife Andee, Warsaw, Wendy Tilden and fiance Matt Roswog, Kokomo, and Reiley Brown, Huntington; three great-grandchildren, Noa Tilden, Brody Tilden and Parker Roswog; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Fred was preceded in death by his parents; wife, five sisters, Maxine Sifford, Fern Jackson, Pauline Hill, Ruth Kochenderfer and Elsie Ball; three Brown brothers, Orlo, Earl and Robert; and another brother who passed away during infancy.

A celebration of the life of Mr. Fred

Brown will be at 10 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 8, 2019, at the Good Family Funeral Home, 1200 W. 18th St., Rochester. Pastor Phil Pratt will officiate. Friends may visit with the family from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday at the funeral home. At 7 p.m., the IOOF Lodge will conduct a memorial service. There will be a visitation one hour prior to his service Friday at the funeral home. Military rites will be accorded by the Fulton County Veterans Honor Guard and the U.S. Army Honors Team. Interment will be in the Rochester IOOF Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Fulton County Veterans Honor Guard or the Fred J. Brown - Fulton County Disabled Veterans Van Fund, 815 Main St., Rochester, IN 46975. Envelopes are available at the funeral home. Electronic expressions of sympathy may be made to his family at www.goodfamilyfh.com.

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