

Charles “Francis” Baker, Jr., 83, of Bella Vista, Arkansas died Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at Circle of Life Hospice in Springdale, Arkansas. Francis was born December 15, 1925 in Excelsior Springs, Missouri to Charles F. and Velma D. Baker. His childhood days were spent in St. Joseph, Missouri, graduating from LaFayette High School.

He served his country in WWII Army of occupation in Japan and later in the Marine Corp during the Korean conflict. He was a member of The American Legion Post No 0341.

Francis was a lifetime member of the National Dental Laboratory Association being one of the first Certified Dental Technicians to be accredited. He was a past president of the Nebraska Dental Laboratory Association. He owned and operated the Fremont Dental Arts Laboratory, in Fremont, Nebraska for 25 years before taking a position at Creighton University Dental College in Omaha, Nebraska where he served 18 years. He was the first staff member in the Dental School to be awarded Creighton’s highest service award “Universitas Creightoniana”, December 21, 1990.

In his younger years he worked with Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, DeMolay. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and Molia Shrine Club. He was a woodworker and wood carver and a past member of the Bella Vista Wood Carvers. He has been an active member of Bella Vista Community Church.

He married Dorothy Canaday April 20, 1946 who survives along with son, Phillip Alan Baker and wife Jan of Lincoln, Nebraska, four grandchildren, Travis J. Baker and wife Misty of San Antonio, Texas, Seth A. Baker and wife Kristin of Austin, Texas, Jayme Neiman-Tilley and husband Dylan of Sherman Oaks, California, Ian Oehm of Lincoln, Nebraska; 2 great granddaughters, Anna Sofia Baker and Julia Grace Tilley; brothers, Melvin J. Baker and wife Jean of Branson, Missouri, Thomas J. Baker and wife Nell of Saucier, Mississippi; a sister Delores Mullen of Centerville, Virginia and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, March 23, 2009 at the Bella Vista Community Church, 75 East Lancashire Blvd., Bella Vista, Arkansas with Doctor Thad Moore officiating. Military Honors will be provided by the Bella Vista Veterans Honor Guard. Arrangements are by the Bella Vista Funeral Home & Crematory, 2258 Forest Hills Blvd., Bella Vista, Arkansas.