

James Vernon Swift, 91, of Bella Vista, Arkansas died September 12, 2011 at the VA Hospital in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He was born on December 3, 1919 in Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma to Tuncie E. Swift and Nana Garner Swift.

He graduated from High School in Harlingen, Texas. Following graduation he served in the U.S. Navy during WWII and was a Pearl Harbor Survivor. He received 3 Purple Hearts. He returned to South Texas opening a plumbing/electric shop. In later years, he served as Regional Sales Manager for the Baker Division of Otis Elevator. In 1970 they moved to Eau Claire, Wisconsin and he served as Sales manager for General Motors GMC Motor Homes Division.

He was Past Master of Masonic Lodge in Texas. He married Audrey McBride while serving in the Navy and one daughter was born to that union. They were later divorced. In 1966 Jim married Dorothy Kessler, of Atlanta, Georgia and they had 45 years of happiness together.

After retiring he and Dorothy traveled and RV'd across the U.S. and Canada. They came to Bella Vista in 1991. He served as Commander of the Purple Heart Chapter in Bentonville, and Rogers. He was a member of the Highlands Church a United Methodist Congregation.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Glenn, and one great- granddaughter, Carol Diane Smith.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Swift of Bella Vista, Arkansas one daughter, Diane McMeans and husband Roger of Blue Ridge, Texas; three step-sons, Charles Kessler, Jr., and wife, Martha of Calhoun, Georgia, Rick Kessler and wife, Diane of Celina, Texas, David Kessler and wife, Debbie of Eau Claire, Wisconsin; one step-daughter, Nan Kessler of Eau Claire, Wisconsin; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and two great great grandchildren.

A Memorial Service will be at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, September 16, 2011 at the Highland Church, 371 Glasgow Road, Bella Vista, Arkansas with Rev. Rex Darling officiating. Arrangements are by the Bella Vista Funeral Home & Crematory, 2258 Forest Hills Blvd., Bella Vista, Arkansas.