

Busse, John J 1921 - 2007



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Jack Busse, disabled war vet active in community

Jack Busse was disabled after being wounded in World War II, but that didn't stop him from brightening the lives of others. "I think he knew everybody in Northern Kentucky. He was a very outgoing guy and very personable," said a son, Mike Busse of Taylor Mill.

Mr. Busse, 85, of Taylor Mill, died Monday at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Cincinnati. He was an excellent baseball player who had been scouted by the Cincinnati Reds two weeks before he was drafted into the Army. A corporal in the 78th Lightning Division, Mr. Busse was the only survivor of a group of six soldiers in a building in Germany that was blown up. He was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star.

"Because he was disabled, he was reluctant to get married because he knew he wouldn't be able to work," said his son. "But my mom told him, 'I'll work, and you take care of the kids.'" That made Mr. Busse one of the first - if not the first - "Mr. Moms" in Northern Kentucky, Mike Busse said. "And he was the best father any child could have," Busse said. Audrey Busse, Mr. Busse's wife of 56 years, said of her husband, "He was such a wonderful man and such a wonderful husband."

Mr. Busse was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars No. 7099 Kelly Furnish Post in Covington. He was a lifetime member of St. Anthony Parish in Taylor Mill and of the church's Holy Name Society. Mr. Busse was a Cincinnati Reds fan, an avid bowler and a member of the Northern Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame. He was a lifetime member and captain of the Taylor Mill Fire Department. "He volunteered to do anything for anybody," said his son. "He never turned down helping anybody."

Other survivors include a daughter, Dianna Ferguson of Taylor Mill; a sister, Thelma Glassmeyer of Cincinnati; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at St. Anthony Church, Taylor Mill. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Thursday at the church. Burial with military honors will be in Mother of God Cemetery, Fort Wright. Memorials are suggested to St. Anthony Church, 485 Grand Ave., Taylor Mill, Ky. 41015. Connley Brothers Funeral Home of Latonia is handling arrangements.