Vincent S. Szary, 92

Vincent S. Szary, age 92, died Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2009, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell.

Private family services will be held in Florida at a later date.

Vincent Stanley Szary was born on March 30, 1917, in Arnot, Pa., to John Szary and Anastasia Soltry Szary, who immigrated from Rzeszow, Poland. Vincent had six siblings: Walter, Joseph, William, Valerie, Stanley, and Frank. One sibling died at birth in Poland. The family moved to Elizabeth, N.J., when Vincent was a child.

Vincent graduated from Jefferson High School (an all male school) in 1935 in Elizabeth, N.J., and then took classes at the Newark College of Engineering for about one year. He worked as an orderly between his junior and senior years in high school at General Hospital in Elizabeth and was paid $50 per month plus room while the nurses made $45 per month. Vincent then started at Singer Manufacturing at age 18 as a messenger boy. He moved up to a tool and die maker apprentice during the Depression. Vincent went to night school at Singer for apprentices and became head of equipment in the press department during World War II. He was given one of two permanent deferments at Singer because of his position taking care of equipment which made supplies for the war. Vincent eventually became a manufacturing consultant for the North Atlantic Division of Singer and traveled extensively throughout Europe and Turkey. His career with Singer spanned 43+ years, and he retired in 1978 as chief industrial engineer.

Vincent was introduced to his future wife, Helen Zacharaukas, at a picnic by a friend’s girlfriend. They were married Feb. 14, 1941, in Elizabeth, N.J. To this union were born three sons; Vincent Jr., Robert, and Thomas.

Vincent co-owned a bar, Club Aloha, in Roselle, N.J., after the war, with his brother, Stanley, for a number of years.

Vincent’s hobbies were golf and cards. He was very proud of his five hole in ones and loved to play Scrabble. Vincent also played the clarinet in the Polish American Boys Band as a young adult.

Vincent was preceded in death by his wife, Helen; and his son, Robert.

He is survived by his sister, Valerie; his sons, Vincent Jr. and Thomas; daughter-in-law, Kathy; and grandsons, Kyle and Karl.