James P. Stirniman, 87

James P. Stirniman, age 87, of Joliet, Ill., passed away Wednesday, March 20, 2013, at his residence. Private funeral services were held on Saturday, March 23, at the Fred C. Dames Funeral Home, Joliet, with final interment at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. Memorials in his name to the Disabled American Veterans, the Salvation Army or Alzheimer's Foundation would be appreciated.

Born April 16, 1925 in Sacramento, Calif., to the late Madge (nee Ryan) and Edward Stirniman, at a young age, he moved to Germany with his family, then Australia, before returning to the U.S. and settling in Brooklyn, where he graduated from Brooklyn High School. He received a bachelors degree in mechanical engineering from Iowa State University. After serving his country in the U.S. Army during World War II, Jim returned to Brooklyn and on Sept. 1, 1947, married Wanda R. Keller.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years; nine children, Catherine (Bob) Main, Robert Stirniman, Mary Jean (Pete) Betts, James A. (Sue) Stirniman, Patricia (Robert) Merrifield, Jane (Al) Harris, John (Nancy) Stirniman, Michael (Eva) Stirniman and Julia (late Jack) Kern; proud grandfather of numerous grandchildren and many great-grandchildren; also survived by one brother, John (Margaret) Stirniman; one sister, Jane Stirniman; and several nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by his son, Mark; granddaughter, Elizabeth Harris; his parents; and one sister, Ann.

Jim was employed for many years as a design engineer. He and his wife raised their family in Channahon, Ill., and after retirement, they moved to Bella Vista, Ark., for nearly 25 years, where Jim enjoyed volunteer work, especially driving the area veterans to appointments. Member of the American Legion, he was a life member of the VFW, served Channahon District 17 School Board for 22 years (21 as president), Minooka High School Board for 10 years, and Grundy County Vocational Institute four years. In his retirement years, he enjoyed golf, playing bridge, reading and fishing. PCCR 4-17-2013