



Charles M. Conklin – (1926-2013)

Independence – Charles M. Conklin, 86 years old of Independence, IA, died from heart failure, Sunday, January 20, 2013, at Covenant Medical Center, Waterloo, IA. He was born November 19, 1926, in rural Buchanan County, Iowa, the son of George Davis Conklin and Alta Elvina (Deke) Conklin. He graduated from Independence High School with the class of 1945. Charles served in the US Army Air Corp for 2 ½ years, stationed in Germany. On February 14, 1947, he was united in marriage to Audrey May Soener at the First Presbyterian Church in Independence. He also attended the Vogue School of Design in Chicago, IL, graduating in 1948. He did interior and exterior design and General Contracting work as well as owning and operating the retail Conklin Decorating Store in Independence from 1950 – 1992.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Independence where he held the position of Head Usher for many years, and also had served as Elder and Trustee, and was a member of the church men's club. He had served on the Independence School Board, Wapsi Golf Club Board, Buchanan County Wildlife Board, Camp Ingawanis Boy Scout and Northeast Iowa Boy Scout Boards, and was a Boy Scout Troop #47 and Little League Baseball volunteer. He was a member of Bechter-Boies V.F.W. Post #2440 and Sheehan-Tidball American Legion Post #30.

Charles was also a volunteer fireman in Independence from 1950 – 2007. On the Independence Fire Department he had served as Secretary and Treasurer, was Assistant Fire Chief for 4 years and then served as Fire Chief for 27 years. He had served as president of the Buchanan County Fireman's Association, and was the first president of the Buchanan County Fire Chief's Assoc. At the state level he was a past President of the Iowa Fire Chiefs Assn., a member of the Iowa Firefighters Association for 57 years, had served as their president 4 years, and vice president 4 years. He was a member of the International Fire Chiefs Association (Missouri Division for 27 years), was an Iowa Fire instructor, Member of the National Fire protection association, Buchanan County Emergency Management Asst. Coordinator, Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Iowa State Fire Institute, Joint Council Fire Service of Iowa board member and member of the Fire Marshall's Fire Service Training Fund Committee.

Mr. Conklin is survived by his wife Audrey of Independence; five daughters, Jackie Conklin of Palmer, IA, Cindy (Keith) Osborne of Derby, KS, Mary Conklin of Des Moines, Pam Conklin of Independence, Cathy Conklin of Urbandale, IA; two sons, Paul (Karen) Conklin of Eldridge, IA, Charles B. "Charlie" (Beth) Conklin of Independence; 17 grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; and one brother, Carroll (Marian) Conklin of Independence. He is preceded in death by his parents, one son, Jeffrey Conklin and one granddaughter, Audrey Fitzgerald.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. – Thursday, January 24, 2013, at the First Presbyterian Church, Independence, IA, with Rev. John Hougen officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Hope Cemetery, Independence. Visitation will be from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Tuesday and from 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Wednesday at the White Funeral Home, Independence, where there will be a 7:00 p.m. Military Memorial Service Wednesday.

Memorials will be directed to the Iowa Fire Fighters Association Memorial in Coralville, IA; the First Presbyterian Church and Boy Scout Troop #47 both in Independence and to our local Buchanan County American Cancer Society.