



Irland Keith Ellis

November 2, 2006

Irland Keith Ellis, known as Keith, was a lifelong mariner and a devoted husband. Keith died Thursday, November 2, 2006, at the Lake Regional Hospital in Osage Beach. He was 77.

“He fought a good fight, his entire life,” said his wife, Maxine Ellis. Last year Keith and Maxine celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. “The time goes by so fast,” she said. “You don’t even realize where it all goes.”

Keith was born in Walters, Oklahoma, on May 23, 1929 to parents Will and Ada Ellis. He joined the Navy when he was 17 years old, and he served his country for 20 years. He was active in the Korean War, World War II, and Vietnam.

He met Maxine while stationed in San Diego, California, and they were married three weeks later. Keith began a new career with the San Diego Harbor Police after his retirement from the Navy. He patrolled the San Diego Airport as well as Shelter and Harbor Islands.

Although he had always worked by the water, it was his dream to run his own marina. So in 1977 he bought the Lighthouse Marina in Sunrise Beach, Missouri, and he and his family moved to the quiet Lake of the Ozarks. He ran the marina until his retirement in 1994.

Keith is survived by his wife; three sons, Keith Daily Ellis of Laurie, MO, Mark Ellis of Las Vegas, NV, and Mike Perkins of Lemon Grove, CA; a daughter, Debra Carter of Sunrise Beach, MO; two brothers, Ira Ellis of New Mexico, and Jack Ellis of Oklahoma, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by three brothers and one sister.

Celebration of Life Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 7, at West Lake Christian Church, 936 Highway O in Laurie, Missouri, 65037, with Dr. Jim Sutherlin officiating, with military honors under the auspices of the Zack Wheat American Legion Post #624 of Sunrise Beach. To send sympathy condolences to the family online visit www.kidwellgarber.com. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Dialysis Center in Osage Beach. Arrangements are under the care and direction of the Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home in Laurie.