

Hewitt James Murch '48 S January 19, 1921 - February 19, 2015

It is with loving memories that the family announces the passing of Hewitt Murch at Cypress House in Swift Current, SK. Hewitt will be sadly missed by his daughters Annette (Steve) Pawlus and Donna (Stan) Murphy, grandson David (Danielle) Murch and grandchildren Robert, Liza, and Frankie. Also mourning his loss are sister-in-law Jean Murch, nieces Carol (Trent) Turner and Sandra (Charlie) Watson, nephews Wayne (Marion) Murch, Keith (Fran) Murch and their families. Hewitt also leaves behind nieces and nephews in Australia and England. He was predeceased by parents John and Rachel, brothers Archie (Edna) and Cliff, and the love of his life his darling wife Betty.

Hewitt joined the Canadian Army in 1942 and proudly served with the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals - 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade, taking great pride in his military career. He boarded a landing craft on June 3, 1944 and landed on the beaches of Normandy June 6, 1944, continuing on through France, Belgium, Holland and into Germany. In August 1945 he took a position with Military Headquarters in London.

Betty George and Hewitt were married in Shrewsbury, Shropshire December 1945. Hewitt returned to Canada in March 1946 and Betty followed in August. They lived on the family farm until 1959 when Dad began working as a Field Officer with the Veteran's Land Administration, his first posting being Outlook followed by Shaunavon in 1973 and then on to Swift Current 1974 where he and Betty resided until their passing.

Throughout his long life he volunteered tirelessly in every community he lived. He was an active member of the Prairie Pioneers Kiwanis, proud lifetime member of the Royal Canadian Legion and belonged to the Masonic Lodge of Macrorie/Hawarden. He volunteered for the Federal Superannuates, Home Care, and until two years ago completing income tax for the Community Volunteer Income Tax program. Until a few months ago he was a regular diner at the Tuesday dinners held at the Legion where he faithfully gave the blessing before the meal. He always enjoyed attending the Lenten and Advent services throughout the city and could be seen at many Stars for Saskatchewan Concerts with his good friend Harold Benjamin. Many children will remember Hewitt speaking at Remembrance Day services at schools in the area. His last speaking engagement was to students at Wymark School this past November.

He was proud of the many awards bestowed on him over the years but his proudest moments came when he was presented with the Saskatchewan Legionnaire of the Year Award in 2011 and also the presentation of the Diamond Jubilee Medal by Prince Charles at the Saskatchewan Legislature in 2013. He touched the lives of everyone he met in some way; he was a true "Gentle" man. He will be missed.

We would like to thank all the staff at Cypress House for the kindness and care shown to our Dad and the family during his last weeks. Memorial donations in his memory to the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund, 239 - 1st N.E., Swift Current, SK S9H 2B3, would be appreciated by the family. Hewitt's Life Celebration and Poppy Tribute will be held at 2:00 p.m. Monday, February 23, 2015 from St. Stephen's Anglican Church, 108-2nd Avenue SE, Swift Current, SK with Rev. Jonathan Hoskins officiating. Memorial donations may be made to the Swift Current Legion Poppy Fund. Warren's Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements.

- See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/leaderpost/obituary.aspx?n=Hewitt-MURCH&pid=174210469#sthash.aFS2kq3a.dpuf>