



Rodger Lloyd Gardner

July 13, 1922 - January 19, 2011

Rodger Lloyd Gardner of St. Paul, MN, died Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at Serenity Care Center in White Bear Lake, MN. He was 88. He was born in 1922 in St. Paul, MN, the son of the late Harold Gardner and the late Florence Widell Gardner. Survived by his seven children, Douglas (Madrene), David (Cathy), Brian (Kathy), Laurie (Wade) Lawrence, Susan (John) Brunner, Becky (Tim) Johnson and Bruce (Holly) Gardner; 13 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; sister, Beverly Fuhrmann; nephew, Thomas Fuhrmann. Preceded by his loving wife of 62 years, Amy Alta Harrington Gardner, his brother-in-law Gordon Fuhrmann, and a niece, Janet Fuhrmann Williams. Rodger graduated from the first graduating class of Murray High School in St. Paul in 1940. He served in WWII from 1942 to 1945 and saw combat in Europe where he was wounded in battle in France. He was a recipient of the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1948 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. During his career, he was employed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers, assigned to design parts of the locks and dam at St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis, and then as a field researcher in Fairbanks, Alaska on a permafrost research project. In the early 1950s, he began a career in computer electronics for Sperry Univac of St. Paul, and was assigned to several projects including the design, construction, and testing of computers at the Air Force Research Center in Tullahoma, TN, and projects involving the transcontinental ballistic missile guidance systems at the NASA research center in Huntsville, AL, and the earth-based control

computer systems for NASA moon shots at Goddard, MD. He also lived in Destin, FL for one year while working at Eglin Air Force base. The remainder of his 35-year career at Sperry Univac was spent supervising the manufacture of all of the company's Twin Cities-built commercial computers and associated equipment. Rodger cherished each day the Lord provided, and he had many interests in addition to spending time with his family. He was an accomplished single-engine plane pilot and glider pilot and a longtime member of the AOPA. He enjoyed model railroading and was a member of the St. Paul Model Railroading Club and often helped out at their Union Depot and Bandana Square locations. He built many layouts and models for the club. In 1982, he purchased a hobby business - Scale Model Supplies in St. Paul - which is now owned and operated by his son Douglas and employs another son, Bruce. Rodger was an artist who liked to paint and draw, a musician (bass fiddle and accordion), an avid photographer, a woodworker, a hobby farm owner, and a sports enthusiast (hockey, tennis, volleyball). During his retirement years, he was a volunteer trolley conductor for the Lake Harriet trolley line in Minneapolis. Most importantly, Rodger was a born-again Christian who loved and served the Lord throughout his life. He was a member of Lake Park Baptist Church and later, Central Baptist Church, both of St. Paul, MN. Rodger and Amy were both active in their church and for several years taught English to new Hmong residents in the Twin Cities and volunteered with Second Harvest and Loaves and Fishes. Visitation will be held from 4-8PM Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at the HOLCOMB-HENRY-BOOM-PURCELL FUNERAL HOME, 515 Hwy 96 at Mackubin, Shoreview, MN. Funeral services will be held at CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, 420 N. Roy at Shields, St. Paul, MN at 11AM (visitation begins at 10AM) on Thursday, January 27, 2011. Burial will follow at Roselawn Cemetery, St. Paul, MN. Thanks to Cerenity Care Center, WBL for their kind care of Rodger. Memorials preferred to Mission Aviation Fellowship.

Tribute Wall

LA

“ Thank you to everyone who attended our father's visitation and funeral service on January 26th and 27th.

Thank you to Holcomb-Henry-Boom-Purcell Funeral Home for helping us with the difficult details for both Mom's funeral in Dec. 2009 and Dad's funeral Jan. 2011. Lynn, you were wonderful to us during Mom's visitation and funeral and Dan, you did an outstanding job coordinating Dad's funeral -- it helped us get through a very difficult time.

To Tom Fuhrmann and Steve & Stephanie Williams, thank you for coming from Wisconsin to honor our father's memory; he loved you very much. To our cousins on the Harrington side of the family, thank you so much for coming to share our grief and to share your memories of your uncle Rodger; he loved you too.

And to all my brothers and sisters who managed to make me smile a few times during such a difficult week, thank you. Mom and Dad are together once again, but this time singing His praises in heaven. Their cares and worries are gone, and we should be glad. Of course we will miss them and it will take a long time to heal our hearts, but I look forward to seeing them again one day when we will all be together as a family. Until that day comes, let's love and support one another exactly as Mom and Dad would have wanted us to do.

Laurie - February 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ Sending our love to the entire family. Matt and Laurie

Matt and Laurie Kania - January 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM