

OBITUARY



Nicholas Landiak, age 96, recently of Naperville, Ill., and longtime resident of State College, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 7, 2017, at his residence in the Sunrise Assisted Living in Naperville. Born in Alphano, N.J. on February 19, 1921, Nicholas grew up on the farm of his parents Paul and Anna (Kurylo) Landiak, of Allamuchy, N.J. For seventy-one years he was the cherished husband of Marie Landiak, nee Zubina. He was the beloved father of Karen (Andrew) Hess, of Scotia, N.Y., Marilyn (Murv Granderson) Landiak, of New Orleans, La., and Mark (Barbara) Landiak, of Naperville, Ill. "Poppa" was the adored grandfather of Anna Claire (Christoph) Hippchen, Matthew (Annie) Hess, Miles (Stephanie) Granderson, Nicholas (fiancee, Lauren Metz) Landiak,

Elise (Michael) Trattner, Olivia (James) Butler, and Luke Landiak. He was the dearest great-grandfather of Peter and Mariel Hippchen, Boston and Harrison Hess, and Simone and Alex Granderson. Nicholas was very fond of his brothers Emmett and George Landiak, of Hackettstown, Joseph Landiak, of Pennsylvania, and his sister, Helen Proto, of Las Vegas. He is predeceased by his sisters Mary (May) Budnik and Olga Ferraiuolo, and his brother, Raymond Landiak. Nicholas graduated from the Hackettstown (New Jersey) High School in 1939. He attended Louisiana State University and Kansas State University prior to being appointed to the United States Merchant Marine Academy in 1942. He graduated from the Academy in January, 1944 with a degree in Marine Engineering. Nicholas saw World War II duty as a Cadet Midshipmen aboard merchant vessels in 1942, and as a licensed engineer in the Atlantic and Pacific in 1944 and 1945. Nicholas continued sailing after the end of World War II and was appointed to the superliner, SS United States in 1952. He was aboard during the ship's maiden voyage on July 3, 1952, when the "Big U" made record speed runs during Eastbound and Westbound Atlantic crossings from New York to Europe winning the Blue Ribbon trophy from the previous record holder, the English superliner HMS Queen Mary. Nicholas sailed on the SS United States as First Engineer and Executive Chief Engineer until the ship was retired in 1969. He was proud that during his tenure, the ship sailed without delay or mechanical incident. Nicholas retired from the sea in 1969, with his ship. The next year he took a "shore job" with Pennsylvania State University as Manager of Utilities Operations in the office of physical plant. He was a registered Professional Engineer and also served a number of years with a Design and Engineering Group where he was active in planning and development of utilities systems. Nicholas retired from Penn State in 1986. Nicholas was an avid outdoorsman who, through the years before and after his retirement, spent many hours enjoying the pleasures of fishing and hunting. He was a prodigious picker of blackberries along rural stone walls, and donned waders to pick huckleberries in swamps. After retiring, Nicholas and his wife did extensive traveling to Europe and the United States. They were avid bridge players, golfers and ballroom dancers. He loved history. In the last two years of his life he read 65 non-fiction historical books totaling almost 22,000 pages. In lieu of flowers, online donations to save the "Big U" may be made in Nicholas' memory, to the SS United States Conservancy at <http://www.ssusc.org/the-conservancy/facts/>. A private interment will be at the Pequest Union Cemetery in Great Meadows, N.J. Arrangements are entrusted to Friedrich-Jones Funeral Home, 44 S. Mill St., Naperville, IL 60540. For more information, please call 630-355-0213 or www.friedrich-jones.com

The Centre Daily Times, Naperville, IL: December 13, 2017

NAME: Landiak, Nicholas

DATE OF DEATH: December 7, 2017