

## **Gordon C. Paulk, 85**

*Jan. 23, 1917 - Sept. 16, 2002*

**HARLAN** – Gordon Charles Paulk was born in Harlan, Jan. 23, 1917, son of Charles E. Paulk and Ethel Turner Paulk. He was a third generation resident of Shelby County. He attended and graduated from the Harlan Public Schools and went on to attend the University of Iowa for 2.5 years. He returned to Harlan and entered the retail clothing business with his father.

In 1938, he married Norene Ione Davis. Three children were born to the couple. During World War II, he earned the rank of Lieutenant in the Air Force and was trained as a bombardier. Following the war, he purchased his father's interest in the retail clothing store known as Paulk and Finn, which was a familiar landmark on the Harlan square. He remained in the clothing business for 30 years. He then started a new career as a real estate appraiser and remained active in that capacity until 1997. He was a designated member of the Society of Real Estate Appraisers, and served as a Shelby County inheritance tax appraiser for over 30 years. Gordon was active in both his church and the community. He was a member of the Congregational United Church of Christ for over 70 years and sang in the church choir for much of that time as well as holding various church offices. He served on the Harlan school board, the city forestry board, and helped with numerous community functions. During the course of his life, he was a member of the Parian Lodge No. 321, A.F. & A.M., American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 of Harlan, Kiwanis and the Harlan Chamber of Commerce. Gordon died at his home Sept. 16, 2002, at age 85 years, seven months and 24 days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Norene Paulk, and his brother, Robert T. Paulk. He is survived by his daughter, Mary Eleanor (Warren) Hansen of San Luis Obispo, CA, and sons, Stephen C. (Amy) Paulk of Portage, WI and Douglas G. (Heidi) Paulk of Mt. Clemens, MI; grandchildren, Curt, Dana and Caroline Hansen; Derek and Tracy Hansen; Meghan, Rich and Wyatt Ingle; Charlie Paulk; Allison Paulk; Megan Schmitz; Leah Schmitz; Kelsey Schmitz; Devin Paulk; Danielle Paulk; Kaitlyn Paulk; Alexis Paulk and Heather Paulk; and good friend, Sally Feser. Funeral services were held Sept. 21, 2002, at the Congregational United Church of Christ with Rev. Donna Ewert officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.