

Celestine Joseph Antonie, age 88, died peacefully at home surrounded by his family on Monday, August 29, 2005, of cancer. Whether you knew him as Cel, CJ, Joe, Tony, Dad or Grandpa, you knew he made this a better place for having been here. Cel was born in Hayes, Kan., on April 30, 1917, to Peter and Caroline (Karlin) Antonie. When he was seven years old, the family sold their farm and moved to Wisconsin, eventually settling in Two Rivers. He graduated from high school as an honor student, acclaimed football and baseball player, and was the first of his family to go on to college, attending the University of Wisconsin. His college career was interrupted by World War II, during which he served as a decorated B-17 navigator, flying 25 missions from North Africa to Italy, Greece, Germany and Bulgaria. While on leave in Two Rivers before going over seas, Cel met and married the love of his life, Betty (Heinrich), and they enjoyed more than 62 years of marriage. After the war, he completed his master's degree and chose to become a science teacher at Madison West High School, much to the delight of the many students over the course of his 30-year career for whom science classes, especially biology, became something to look forward to. As a teacher at West, he also served as a football coach and was the schools first athletic director, combining his love of teaching with his love of sports. Many of his former students stayed in contact with him to let him know that their careers and personal lives were influenced by him. Cel was an avid gardener who always planted more than he needed and relished giving the excess produce away to neighbors, friends or just putting it out by the curb for anyone to take. He loved to cook, once winning a local newspaper recipe contest with a "family favorite" that until then the family had never eaten. However, fishing was his real avocation. As a young man he fashioned his own wooden baits and cherished the Pflueger Supreme reel his young bride surprised him with. In 1964, he started a family tradition of traveling to Red Lake, Ontario, for a yearly fishing trip and celebrated the 40-year anniversary by catching a walleye on the last pass of his last trip in 2004. Cel helped build his family's home, across from Midvale School, in 1952 from plans he drew up. From that home, he was a devoted member of Queen of Peace Church, an active participant in the Westmorland neighborhood, and a favorite neighbor to youngsters who wanted to know more about the bugs they found. He was a wonderful mentor, teaching those around him that compassion and understanding are the keys to strong relationships. Cel will be remembered as a person who had a story or joke for every occasion, often telling a joke in his last days to ease the grief everyone was feeling. He is survived by his wife, Betty; children, Peter (Kristin) of Black Earth, Linda (Wayne) Antonie-Lusk of Madison, Ellen (Michael) Hamm of Seattle, Wash., and Roger (Debra) of Mission Viejo, Calif.; grandchildren, Elizabeth, Carolyn and Patrick Antonie, Brian (Lindsay), Alex and Peter Hofsteen, Ian and Logan Hamrn, and Heather, Laura and Steven Antonie; brothers, Lawrence, Felix (Grace) and Jerome (Eunice) Antonie; sisters, Mary Caldwell and Sr. Marcia Anionic; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Joseph and Cyril; and sisters, Rose Cretton and Ann Carley. The family wishes to thank the many doctors and nurses who cared for Cel during his last years, HospiceCare of Dane county (Kris, Kelly and Claudia) for easing his pain and helping him on his journey, and "DJ", Cel's special care giver for tender care and loving support in his last days. A Memorial Mass will

be held at OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 401 S. Owen Drive, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2005, with Father Todd Van Natta officiating. Interment will follow at Resurrection Catholic Cemetery with military honors. Family and friends may call from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the CRESS FUNERAL HOME, 3610 Speedway Road, on Friday, Sept. 2, 2005, and from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the church on Saturday. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to memorials that will be designated at a later date. Cress Funeral & Cremation Service 3610 Speedway Road (608) 238-3434