

Joseph J. Gasses

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May 25, 2005 - Battle of the Bulge vet dies

Funeral services for Joseph J. Gasses, 84, of Grand Haven, longtime area resident who was captured in the Battle of the Bulge in World War II, are scheduled 10:30 a.m. Thursday at St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

A visitation for friends and family is scheduled 7-9 p.m. today at the VanZantwick Bartels Kammeraad Funeral Home, 620 Washington. Interment will be in Lake Forest Cemetery.

Gasses served in the United States Army during the war and was captured near Bleialf, Germany, on Dec. 19, 1944, during the opening stages of a German surprise attack.

In February, Gasses was awarded a certificate from U.S. Rep. Peter Hoekstra, R-Holland, for his wartime service. The award was the result of Gasses' daughter Arlene Bloemers' efforts to secure a promotion promised her father decades earlier. U.S. Army records in the St. Louis office were destroyed by fire in 1973, but Hoekstra said he wanted to acknowledge his service.

Gasses served as a military policeman for much of the war, but was transferred to the [106th Infantry Division](#) shortly before a crushing German wintertime counteroffensive.

He was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 920 Fulton, Grand Haven, and the Knights of Columbus. He was formerly a member of the American Legion, the Sgt. Alvin Jonker-VFW Post 2326 and the American Legion-Charles Conklin Post 28.

Survivors include his wife Agnes; two daughters, Jan Lawrence and Arelene Bloemers, both of Grand Haven; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of North Ottawa Community or St. Patrick's Catholic Church. [MLive.com](#) - MI,USA



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