

**O.C. "Dixie" O'Hara WOODSTOCK - O.C. "Dixie" O'Hara, 91, of Woodstock, passed away Friday, Oct. 2, 2009, after a short illness.**



He was born July 6, 1918, in Princeton, Ky., to Fred and Mildred (Martin) O'Hara.

In 1937, he graduated from Dixon High School, which is where he got the nickname, "Dixie." He married Evelyn B. O'Hara (Eisenberg) on Aug. 23, 1941, and had 54 years of love and companionship until her death on May 19, 1996.

In 1942, he graduated from Northern Illinois State Teachers College (now Northern Illinois University), where he earned varsity letters in football. His son, daughter, son-in-law and a granddaughter and her husband, all graduated from NIU, which became a family meeting ground for sporting events. He also received his master's degree in school administration from the University of Illinois in 1949.

After serving in the U.S. Army, he returned to teaching and coaching. He spent 29 years at Woodstock High School, coaching six sports and serving as athletic director, dean of boys, and assistant principal.

He left Woodstock High School in 1975 to be assistant regional superintendent of schools for McHenry County. In 1983, he was elected superintendent of schools for McHenry County until he retired in 1987. In 1988, he was elected to the McHenry County Board, where he served for four years.

Always active, at age 74, he became Marian Central High School's golf coach until 1999.

On Aug. 12, 2001, he married Josie Pace of McHenry and had another eight years of love and companionship. Shortly thereafter, they moved to Sun City in Huntley.

His passion for golf was endless, serving as golf coach at two high schools for more than 20 years. He was a longtime member of Woodstock Country Club and was elected board president in 1963. He also served as ranger/starter at Crystal Woods, Marengo Ridge and Whisper Creek golf courses.

Very active politically, he served as Republican precinct committeeman for 38 years, ran the McHenry County Republican Play Day for 37 years, and was inducted into the McHenry County Republican Party Hall of Fame in 1998. He also was a member of the Presidential Electoral College in 1980 and cast one of the 26 Illinois votes for Ronald Reagan.

He always was involved in community activities in Woodstock. He was a past commander of the American Legion and served as the American Legion Boy's State chairman of school awards for 45 years, chairman of Elks youth activities for six years, organized the Woodstock American Cancer Society in 1987, was a Youth Service Board member for three years, and was involved in Woodstock Summer Recreation program, Cub Scouts and Little League.

However, his No. 1 passion was Woodstock Lions Club. He was secretary for 37 years and also a past president. He was the Lions Club Citizen of the Year in 1989. He earned the International Lions Club Key Award, which is the club's highest honor for recruiting new members, ranking him in the top 25 in the world.

After moving to Huntley, he was president of the Sun City Lions Club.

Surviving are his second wife, Josie of Huntley; a daughter, Judith (Thomas) Dowling of Stoughton, Wis.; a son, David (Joey) O'Hara of Elgin; four granddaughters, Susan (David) Messmann of Mt. Horeb, Wis., Megan (Jim) Zemanek of Antioch, Lauren (Tom) Jenrette of Elgin and Courtney O'Hara of Elgin; four great-grandchildren, McKenzie, Landon, McKayla and McKenna; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Carrie Jane of Dixon; his brother, Jack of Pensacola, Fla.; and his first wife, Evelyn.

The visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, at Schneider, Leucht, Merwin & Cooney Funeral Home in Woodstock. The visitation will continue from 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, until the 10:30 a.m. funeral at First United Methodist Church in Woodstock. Entombment will follow in McHenry County Memorial Park Cemetery in Woodstock.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Huntley Lions Club, P.O. Box 901, Huntley, IL 60142.

For information, call the funeral home at 815-338-1710.