

Mon., Jan. 3, 2000

PETERSON

Marine Corps Master Gunnery Sgt. (retired) Leonard Eugene Peterson, 69, of Bethlehem, Pa. and formerly of Boone, died Dec. 29, 1999, of heart failure at St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem.

There will be a military graveside service Tuesday at the Bethlehem Memorial Park.

His body was cremated.

Mr. Peterson was born March 17, 1930, to Edgar and Edna Hodges in rural Boone. He attended the Lake City Country School, located near Camp Matigwa, through the eighth grade. He enlisted in Marine Corps in 1946 and retired in 1975 after 29 years of service. He served in World War II and the Vietnam War. He worked for and managed a local telephone company before retiring. He married Kathy Szakaly of Bethlehem while in the service. He was a licensed ham radio operator and had an amateur radio station in his home. He was preceded in death by his wife, his father, father-in-law, and one sister.

He is survived by one daughter, Kim Wilson of Bethlehem and his mother-in-law, Grace Szakaly of Bethlehem; five sisters and brothers-in-law, Linda and Bob Smith of Boone, Laurie and Curt Coffman of Boone, and Rose and Larry Hopkins of Boone, Rose and Merle Jackson of Rippey and Pat Carter of Ellsworth.

He is also survived by three brothers and one sister-in-law, Dale Hodges of Boone, Jim and Linda Hodges of Boone and Robert Hodges of Richardson, Texas.