

SMELSER, WILLIS

WILLIS (BILL) JAMES SMELSER

8/4/09
Age 85, of Valley Glen, California, was born September 8, 1923 in Knoxville, Tennessee. The family moved to Akron, Ohio when Bill was a small child, and he grew up there and attended schools and graduated from East High.

He went into the Navy in 1943 and was assigned as Radio Man on the Merchant Ships in the South Pacific. He was discharged in 1946, and stayed in California. He married Bonnie George in December 1946. To this union were born four children, James, Dennis, Judy and Pam. He was an Engineer and worked for Rocketdyne and Litton, retiring from Litton in 1989, after suffering a heart attack.

He and his wife traveled in the U. S. and Canada in their motorhome until his wife of 55 years passed away October 8, 2001 in Pismo Beach, California.

He continued traveling in his motorhome, and met Alta DeGarmo in 2002. They were married August 13, 2005 and spent 7 years traveling in their motorhome all over the U.S.

Bill became a Christian and was baptized in 2005 and is a faithful member of the San Fernando Church of Christ. He had an auto accident, July 14, and suffered severe injuries. He passed away July 26 in Northridge Hospital.

He is survived by his wife, a sister and husband, Betty and Homer Bruton, of Englewood, Colorado; four children and spouses, James and Geri Smelser of Santa Clarita, California, Dennis and Pam Smelser of Humboldt, Ohio, Judy and Dan Moropoulos of Reno, Nevada, and Pam and Dennis Reel of Temecula, California; three stepsons, Scott and Alana DeGarmo of Orlando, Florida, Jerry DeGarmo of San Luis Obispo, California, and Larry and Rachel DeGarmo of Houston, Texas; 13 grandchildren, eight step grandchildren, six great grandchildren, five step great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

He was a member of Van Nuys Masonic Lodge #450, Al Malaikah Shrine, 32nd Scottish Rite, Good Sam Club and FMCA.

With his quiet manner and quick smile and great hugs, he will be deeply missed. There will be no services, Neptune Society is in charge and he will be buried at Sea.