Frank Thomas Claeys, 99

Frank Thomas Claeys, 99 of Columbia, Mo., formerly of Victor, died on Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011, at his home.

A funeral Mass was held at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 8, at Saint Bridget's Catholic Church in Victor. Interment was at the Calvary Cemetery in Victor.

Memorials may be directed to the Frank Claeys memorial fund. Smith Funeral Home of Victor is handling arrangements.

Frank Claeys was born on Jan. 30, 1912, in Victor, to Chase (Charles) and Leona Claeys. He was raised in Victor and graduated from St. Bridget Catholic High School with honors.

On June 27, 1940, he was married to Lorine Claeys in Marengo. The couple lived in Cedar Rapids for many years. After he retired he moved to Missouri.

He worked for Collins Radio Company also known as Rockwell-Collins Incorporated in Cedar Rapids, as an experimental machinist (model shop). He started as a security guard and moved up in the company by the merit system. He worked on government contracts with communication for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, he would say, "I have equipment on the moon." He also made parts for the black box that are on all types of aircrafts. He was a founder member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, charted as a union in November 1943. Frank worked for Rockwell-Collins for 36 years and then retired to travel, fish, and raise his grandchildren.

Frank died on Thursday, Sept. 29, at his home in Columbia, Mo. He was 99 years and 8 months of age, and preceded in death by his parents; and three brothers, August, Bruno and Charles Claeys.

Frank is survived by his four children, Frank (Teresa) Claeys of Iowa City, Mary Claeys of Phoenix, Ariz., Susan Claeys of Columbia, Mo., and Nancy (Keith) Polinski of Columbia, Mo.; five grandchildren, Matthew and Martha Claeys, David, Crystal and Olivia Polinski, and two great-grandchildren, Margie and Monya. 10-13-2011