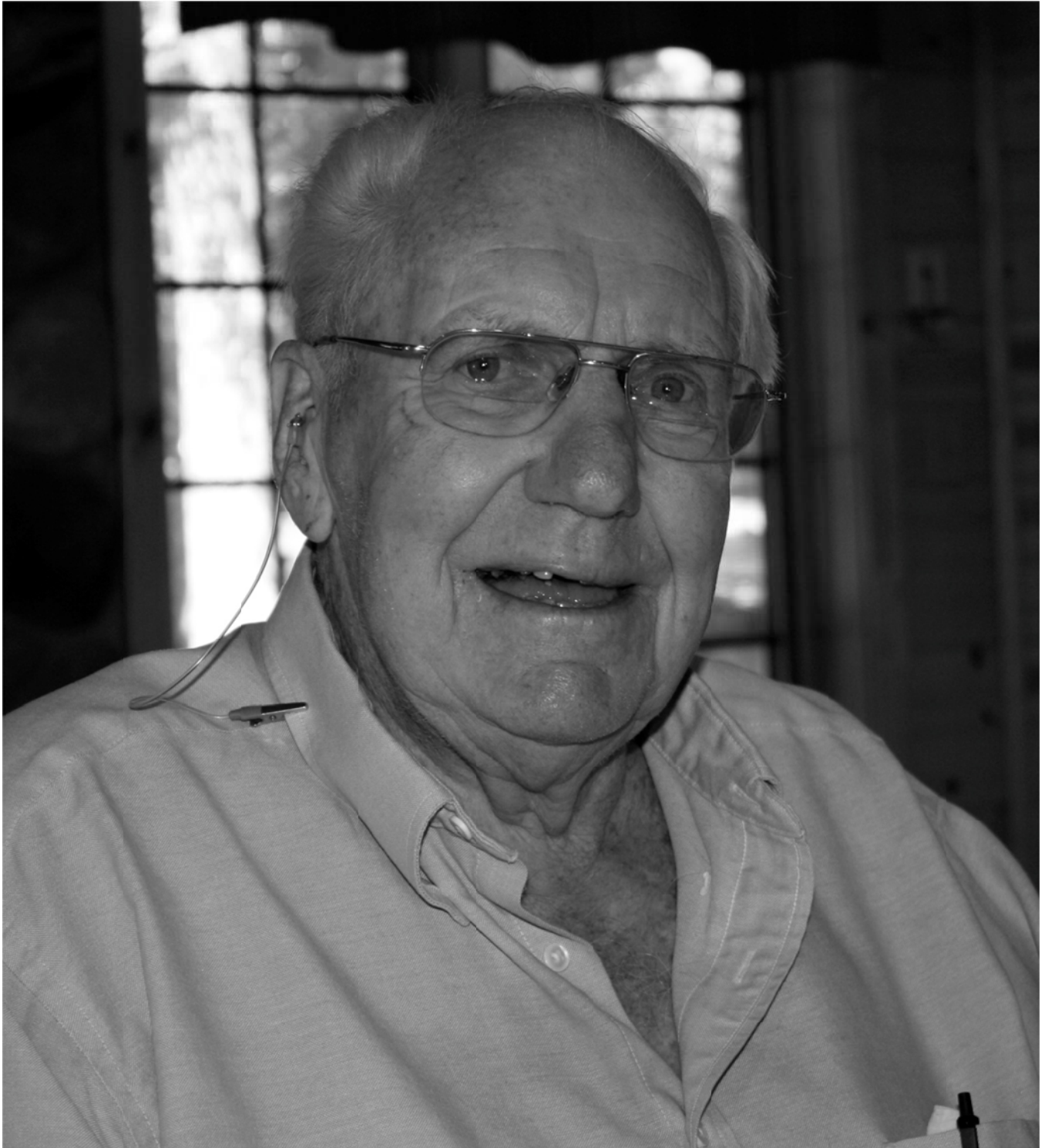


## Obituary

### William Gerry (Jack) Bugbee



# William Gerry (Jack) Bugbee

William Gerry (Jack) Bugbee was born on October 20, 1923 in Paynesville, Minnesota. He was the son of William Gerry and Mary Louis (Hudson) Bugbee. Jack grew up in Paynesville, spending his summers on Lake Koronis working at his parent's family resort business, the Bug-Bee Hive Resort, and most of his winters in Benson, Minnesota. After graduating from Benson High School in 1941, he attended Macalester College for a year before enlisting in the United States Navy during WWII where he served as a naval pilot educator. After his honorable discharge in 1946 he returned to Macalester College for another year of post-secondary schooling.

On November 13, 1948, Jack was married to Audrey Juanita Swenson in Walnut Grove, Minnesota. Following their marriage they lived in Paynesville where Jack went into a partnership with his mother at the Bug-Bee Hive Resort. While Audrey managed the resort during the summer months, Jack found year-round employment with the Minneapolis Star Tribune as a carrier route supervisor (1950-1960). For the next couple of years he pursued various occupations in retail sales (Sears Roebuck, Inc), banking and real estate sales. In 1962 he began working for the U.S. Postal Service until his retirement as a rural route carrier in 1986. He loved working for the post office and always maintained that "it was the best job in the world". Along with his wife and family he remained actively involved with the operations and development of the Bug-Bee Hive Resort on Bee-Utiful Lake Koronis through the last day of his life.

Jack was a faithful member of the St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Paynesville as well as the St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Lakeland Florida during the winters of his retirement. He served in various leadership capacities in his church, including the church vestry, senior warden and a lay reader. He was a lifelong member of the Paynesville Masonic Lodge, the American Legion, the Minnesota Resort and Campground Association, and the Paynesville Area Historical Society. In 2004 he was honored to receive the highly coveted Pioneer Award from the Minnesota Resort and Campground Association for his lifetime of dedication and work in support of the hospitality industry in our state.

Jack Bugbee was a man of vision who embraced a strong and consistent work ethic throughout his entire life. He loved meeting people and thoroughly enjoyed his association with them, especially with those whom he served as a rural letter carrier and resort operator. Jack found great pleasure in watching families enjoying their vacations at the Bug-Bee Hive and often said that, "we ultimately find our success in life by being able to do the work that we enjoy the most; any money you make is just a bonus." He had a fond respect and appreciation for skilled craftsmen and laborers and enjoyed following their day-to-day progress with every new development at the Bug-Bee Hive. Jack was a water-skiing enthusiast in his youth and became one of the founding members of the Little Crow Water Ski Club in New London Minnesota.

He was steadfast in his deep and unconditional love for his family and took great pride in their careers, accomplishments and successes. He will be remembered for his warm and welcoming smile, his sense of philanthropy, his ambition and infectious enthusiasm, and his forever positive and never-say-die attitude. He loved life!

William Gerry (Jack) Bugbee, age 87 of Paynesville, died Sunday morning, March 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Paynesville Hospital. He is survived by the love of his life, his wife, Audrey; his sons, Bruce of Logan Utah, Peter of Safety Harbor Florida, Paul (and Kella) of Paynesville, and John of Chicago Illinois; daughter, Mary Jill of Duluth Minnesota; three grandchildren, Anna, Natalie and William Benjamin; and one sister, Virginia Anderson of Norfolk Virginia.

He was preceded in death by his Parents; Brother, Sanford; and Sisters Dorothy Plimpton and Carol Plimpton.

**Funeral Arrangements by Johnson Funeral Home in Paynesville.**

**Visitation will take place at the St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Paynesville on Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.**

**Funeral Services will be on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. at the Paynesville Lutheran Church. A reception and celebration of Jack's life will take place immediately following the funeral service at the Bug-Bee Hive Resort Lodge and Retreat Center on Lake Koronis.**