

# John Launius

January 31, 1921 - December 13, 2008

John Launius, son of the late E.Y. Launius and Gertrude Penigar Launius was born on January 31, 1921 in Essex, Missouri and departed this life at the Missouri Southern Healthcare in Dexter on December 13, 2008 at the age of 87 years.

John served in the European Theater during World War II as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps and navigator of a B-17.

He worked with the Red Cross while a POW/internee in Switzerland.

After the war, Launius was a basketball coach at Morehouse High School in Morehouse, Missouri, and taught agriculture to veterans under the "G I Bill" in Bloomfield, Missouri, while expanding his family farm, raising livestock as well as crops.

For several years, he was a farm manager for Doane Agricultural Service and later started his own business, Launius Farm Management.

He was of the Methodist faith, a member of the Elks, American Legion, and a resident of Bloomfield.

On August 24, 1972 he was united in marriage to Therma Harget in Bernie, Missouri.

Mrs. Launius survives of the home in Bloomfield.

Besides his wife, other survivors include one son, Raymond Webber of Dexter; by four daughters, Anne Berbling of Sikeston, Cathy Kirby of Dexter, Mary Ann Armour of Poplar Bluff, and Theresa Lynn Brown of Bernie;

by twelve grandchildren, Mark Pratt, Mandy Pratt, Katie Pratt, Jonathan Berbling and, Neil Berbling all of Sikeston, Chris Berbling of Olive Branch, Illinois, Shelly Francis of Atlanta Georgia, Denise Brown of Bloomfield, Dennis Brown of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, Tina Born of Evansville, Indiana, Tara Webber of Dexter, and Matt Webber of Clarksville, Tennessee; also by eight great-grandchildren.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by two sons, James L. Webber and Jeffrey B. Webber;

by two sisters, Janet Kidd and Onos Louise Launius..

Friends may call at the Rainey-Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter from 5:00



Born: January 31, 1921  
Death: December 13, 2008

until 8:00 P.M. Monday December 15, 2008.

Graveside service will be conducted at the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield, Missouri on Tuesday December 16, 2008 at 2:00 P.M. with Rev. Susan Hoyle officiating.

Interment will follow immediately after graveside services with full military honors.