



## **Russell E Hamachek**

*Jan. 13, 1919 - Feb. 16, 2010*

Russ was born 1/13/19 in Two Rivers, Wisconsin but grew up in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Upon graduation from Beloit College, he attended Midshipmen's School at Northwestern University and subsequently became an instructor of navigation at the school. After the outbreak of World War II, Russ left teaching for the Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons Training Center in Rhode Island. He became a PT boat Captain for the New Guinea bound Squadron 8 and later LT Commander of Squadron 39 in the Philippines. He was awarded the Silver Star for bravery in action.

He met the love of his life, Margaret Hamilton, during the war. They were married just shy of 66 years. Their three children are: Tod R. Hamachek (Barbara), Dede DeJager (Joe) and Jay W. Hamachek (Babs). The eight grandchildren are: Mark Hamachek, Elizabeth Hamachek Herrick, Jamie DeJager, Justin DeJager, Deyette DeJager Swegle, Katie Hamachek, Tori Hamachek & Natalie Hamachek.

Russ moved to Portland Oregon in 1957 for a three year assignment to run Great Western Malting Co. located in Vancouver. After a few years of not having to shovel snow combined with the sites of the great NW, Russ and Margaret decide that Portland would be their permanent home. Russ became the CEO of Great Western Malting until his retirement in December 1978. When away from work you could find Russ playing a round of golf at Waverly Country Club or Tucson National, hunting a few ducks in Tillamook or whittling on his latest carving under a palm tree on the beach in Maui. In spare moments, he wrote three books.

For last 18 years Russ and Margaret have been residents of Tucson, Arizona returning each summer to catch the Northwest summers. He lived at Tucson National playing golf well into his 80's. Even after he stopped playing golf Russ delighted in driving his grandchildren around Tucson National. His grandchildren all remember a grandfather full of life, love, with special mints hidden in his pocket for them and his passion for ice cream.

One of Russ's pastimes was PT 658, a Navy-owned World-War II motor torpedo boat based in Portland that has been restored to its original operating condition with full armament and three 1,500 horsepower Packard V-12 engines. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to "Save The PT Boat", Inc., P.O. Box 13422, Portland, OR 97213 or a charity of your choice.

*Please sign the online guest book at [www.oregonlive.com/obits](http://www.oregonlive.com/obits)*