

JAMES ROBERT CLEARY

AGE: 81 MACUNGIE, PA.

James Robert Cleary, 81, of Macungie, Pa., died Sunday (Sept. 28, 2008) at Lehigh Commons where he had resided for the last 11 months.

He was born Oct. 1, 1926, in Carbondale, Pa., and had lived in North Plainfield until 1971 when he moved to High Bridge and he had resided there until moving to Macungie, Pa.

He was the son of the late Joseph and Veronica Cleary. His wife, Louise W. Wnukowski Cleary, died in 1997.

He was a retired math teacher, working at Alexander Batcho Intermediate School in Manville from 1962 until 1990. He was a former High Bridge tax collector, delivered newspapers for the Star Ledger, and was a school bus driver for Laidlaw and was a mail carrier in Clinton.

He was a U.S. veteran of World War II. He joined the Navy in 1944 at age 17 and was a Seaman 1st Class serving in the Pacific and was involved in the invasion of both Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

He received his bachelor's degree from LaSalle University in 1952 and a master's degree in education at Rutgers University. In 1978 he received his certificate for tax collection from Rutgers University.

He was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in High Bridge; a member of its Knights of Columbus, the High Bridge American Legion and the Manville VFW.

Survivors include a son, Patrick S. of Bethlehem, Pa.; two daughters, Elizabeth L. Cleary of Mt. Holly and Susan L. Fox of Flemington; and a granddaughter, Paisley Fox of Flemington. He was predeceased by his brother, Jack Cleary.

Calling hours will be 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. with prayers Wednesday, Sept. 30, at Naughtright Scarponi Funeral Home in High Bridge and a 10 a.m. Mass on Thursday, Oct. 2, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in High Bridge. Interment is in Lower Valley Cemetery in Califon.