Harry McGrath

March 5, 1909 - Oct. 18, 2009

Harry P. McGrath, 100, of Winona passed away peacefully Oct. 18, 2009. Survived by daughters, Kathleen Diffley (Thomas) of North Oaks and Margaret Bailey (Dale Suchsdorff) of Inver Grove Heights; grandsons Thomas Diffley (Alison), James Diffley (Michelle), Mark Bailey (Jil); and granddaughters, Meghan Diffley Paluck (Nicholas) and Katharine Pomerleau (Brian); three great-grandsons and five great-granddaughters. He was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Helen Hammond McGrath; his parents, John and Elizabeth (Erding) McGrath; two brothers, John and Joseph; and three sisters, Marion Collier, Agnes Stamschror and Sister M. Gentilis, OSF.

Harry was born March 5, 1909, in Kellogg, Minn. After graduating from Winona State Teachers College in 1929, he completed graduate studies at the University of Colorado in Boulder, became an officer in the U.S. Navy and was stationed in England and the U.S. Naval Academy during World War II. Harry taught history in the Winona Public Schools for over three decades, demonstrating his life-long commitment to children and education. He was a past member of the Naval Reserve, Kiwanis, Elks, WEA, MEA, SEMEA (past president), Winona Area Retired Teachers and The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Harry was the consummate gentleman and was known for his quiet wit and twinkling humor, story-telling, letter writing and keen interest in current events and everyone around him. Harry will be missed by all who knew him.

The family thanks the staff at Callista Court in Winona for their continued support and gives a special thank you to The Friendship Home Community in Roseville for their compassion and care at the end of Harry’s life. In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund for the Winona Public Library will be established in Harry’s name to celebrate his love for reading.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Oct. 26, with visitation one hour prior at Assumption Catholic Church, 51 W. Seventh St., St. Paul.