M.J. “Mac” McCauley

June 7, 1923 — Dec. 8, 2013

passed away peacefully at his home in Winona on Dec. 8, 2013, surrounded by family, at the age of 90. Mac is lovingly remembered by his wife of 65 years, Margaret Lee McCauley; his children, Janet, Debra, John (Laura), Colleen, and Diane; and his grandchildren, Angela, Nicole and Alexander Einsman, Michael, Collin and Joseph Van Ryn, Joseph Hanna, Padraic and Sheila Casserly; his brother, Monsignor James McCauley; his sister, Mary Ellen McIntyre; and his sisters-in-law, Sue McCauley Babbitt, Charlotte Hampel and Nancy McCauley. He will also be missed by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends, for his energetic personality and fun-loving nature.

Mac was born near Caledonia, Minn., on June 7, 1923, to John and Ella Scanlan McCauley. His father, a veteran of World War I, died when Mac was eight and the oldest of five children. Mac graduated from St. Peter’s High School in Hokah, Minn., in 1942. As were many of his peers, he was part of the Greatest Generation, and served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, serving in the South Pacific. After his military service he went on to earn college degrees, attending the University of Notre Dame, University of Wisconsin, University of Minnesota and Arizona State University. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, and his master’s degree in physics from Arizona State University.

His long teaching career included the junior high and high school levels in math and science and 22 years at Winona State University as a physics professor. He was active in local and state politics, holding offices of Clerk of Court in Houston County, State Representative in Winona District 34B and Winona County Commissioner. He was a former Post Commander of the American Legion Post 9, an avid YMCA member, a member of the Winona Civic Association, and active in his parish, St. Stanislaus.

Mac enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, playing cards, performing magic tricks, and keeping involved in politics and policy development. In recent years, he and Margaret were able to spend happy, warm winters in Sebring, Florida.

Mac was preceded in death by his infant daughter, Catherine; his grandson, Paul McCauley; and his brothers, Joe McCauley and Con McCauley.

A Mass of Christian burial will be offered at 1 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13, 2013, at the Basilica of St. Stanislaus Kostka. Following the Mass, the American Legion Leon J. Wetzel Post #9 of Winona, will provide full military honors. Visitation will be held from 11:30 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. at the Basilica of St. Stanislaus Kostka on Friday, Dec. 13, 2013. Mac will be laid to rest in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Hokah, Minn., at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013, at 3 PM.

Watkowski-Mulyck Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Memorials can be given to St. Stanislaus Basilica in Winona, where he had been a member for 50 years, Birthright, or the Hiawatha Valley Marines in Winona, Minn. Online condolences or memories may be left for Mac’s family at www.watkowski-mulyck.com.