

OBITUARY

Lionel Elmo "Butsy" Kabel Sr.

He passed away peacefully at his home in Denham Springs on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009, following an extended illness. Visitation at Seale Funeral Home, Denham Springs, on Monday, Feb. 16, was from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Visitation will resume at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Denham Springs, on Tuesday, Feb. 17, from 8:30 a.m. until recitation of the rosary at 10:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial at the church at 11 a.m. Tuesday, with the Rev. Vincent Dufresne, celebrant. Interment in Denham Springs Memorial Cemetery. Survived by his wife of 54 years, Margaret Guercio Kabel, of Denham Springs; daughter, Brenda Kabel Cason and her spouse, John Cason Sr., of Fulshear, Texas; son, Lionel Kabel Jr. and his spouse, Debbie Westmoreland Kabel, of Denham Springs; and son, Mike Kabel and his spouse, Terri Hood Kabel, of Denham Springs. He is also survived by eight grandchildren, John Cason Jr. and wife Jessica, of Lafayette, Amanda Cason Shandor and spouse Josh, of New Ulm, Minn., Rebecca Cason Holden and spouse Brian, of Houston, and Melanie Kabel, Brett Kabel and spouse Jessica, Michael Kabel and spouse Lauren, Stephanie Kabel and Jordyn Kabel, all of Denham Springs. Additionally, he is survived by a brother, Michael H. Kabel and spouse Cathy, of Baton Rouge; sister, Gretchen Clune and spouse John, of Houma; and brother, Chris Kabel and spouse Phyllis, of Denham Springs. Preceded in death by his parents, Michael Jacob Kabel Jr. and Beulah Anne Braud Kabel, who were of Denham Springs. In 1969, he founded Kabel Signs of Denham Springs, which he co-owned with his son Lionel Jr. and where he worked until his retirement. He was well known and respected in the Denham Springs area as both an artist and a local historian. He wrote and published the book "Benton's Ferry," a history of Denham Springs, as well as numerous newspaper and magazine articles on Louisiana history. Lionel was a member of the Art Association of Denham Springs. He painted many pictures of local and historical scenes, some of which he donated to various local entities. As a member of the Historical Society of Denham Springs, he volunteered his time and was instrumental in spearheading the restoration project for the old city hall, as well as the development of the old, historic downtown district of Denham Springs. Pallbearers will be his sons, Lionel Kabel Jr. and Mike Kabel; son-in-law, John Cason Sr.; grandsons, John Cason Jr., Michael Kabel and Brett Kabel; nephew, Jay Clune; brothers, Mike and Chris Kabel; and brother-in-law, John Clune. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of Baton Rouge.

Published in TheAdvocate.com from Feb. 15 to Feb. 17, 2009