

Joseph Arthur Fisher, 72, died peacefully Nov. 8 2001 at his home surrounded by his loving family after a short and courageous battle with cancer and dermatomyositis. He was born in Burlington on September 18, 1929 the oldest of fourteen children of Arthur J. and Marie (Bourassa) Fisher (formerly Poissant) of Decatur St. He attended Nazareth School and was an altar server at St. Joseph's Church. Joe was also a Boy Scout and loved the summers at scout camp on the lake. He was a cheerleader at Cathedral High School and graduated in 1948. During high school he worked at Verret's store. He attended Notre Dame Seminary College and Burlington Business College. He joined the U. S. Navy in 1949, trained at Great Lakes and was stationed in Pensacola, Florida where he served as storekeeper. He married Marguerite A. (Peg) Carvey of Hydeville, VT on August 14, 1954 in Our Lady of Seven Dolors Church in Fair Haven. Together they had four children; Arthur (Jay), Deborah (Deceased, 1967), Laurie and Kim. Joe was "Grandpa" to his grandsons, Joseph and James Fisher, and "Bunka" to his granddaughters Katie and Emily Dykes. His professional career started when he followed his father in 1953 working as a supervisor with National Biscuit Company located on Rose Street in Burlington, distributing Millbrook Bread throughout northern Vermont and New Hampshire. In 1967 he changed careers and became a registered representative with The Prudential Insurance Company. Joe loved his job handling the insurance and investment needs of his many clients. Over his twenty-five year career with The Prudential he established many long lasting friendships. He believed in personal service and honest dealings. During his distinguished career, he earned many awards including a national quality award and was a three-time regional conference qualifier. He retired from The Prudential in 1991 and for years following, was called on by his clients for his advice on their financial matters. Joe was also a principal owner in Champlain Valley Pools selling and personally installing them. The "Pool Man," as he was known to many, continued selling and servicing on his own until this last summer season. He really enjoyed this time with people and was always on the go. Besides installing pools, he was a natural carpenter; he loved to build. If there was a project in the neighborhood, he wanted to help. He was on the site every day of the Southern Connector project, whose construction he videotaped in its entirety. He built additions and remodeled homes for family and friends, many times refusing payment. He believed in business on a handshake. He was proud that he arranged the construction of his own home on his word sealed with a handshake with Andre Thibault. Joe was an athletic man who didn't look his age. As a young man, he loved to water-ski, ice skate on the lake and hike. He trekked with his family up Mt. Washington and all the trails on Mt. Mansfield and Camel's Hump. In the winter he cross-country skied and was a winner in the Stowe Derby for the "Over 60" aged skiers. In his later years, Joe worked out and ran daily, and ran in local 5K races regularly with his daughters and grandchildren. Joe loved trains. For Christmas, his wife Peg gave him an H O gauge train set and the hobby took off. Many children came to see his layouts. His grandchildren spent many happy hours playing trains at Grandpa's house and developed their own interest in trains. Joe went to shows and traveled the country chasing and photographing trains. His hobby grew to a passion and more than a part-time job. Joe was a conductor on the Lamoille Valley Railroad for many years, taking tickets, narrating the tour, dancing in the aisle, painting and repairing the cars, and clearing brush on the track. He was also a conductor and handled daily cash operations on the Champlain Flyer. Joe was an ambassador for Operation Lifesaver. He spoke and showed safety videotapes to schoolchildren in VT and NY. He also served as a commissioner with the CCTA. He was a member of the B.P.O.E. and past member of the Knights of Columbus. Joe was a long time member of the St. Anthony's choir and was the former director of the St. Anthony's folk group