



Montgomery Ruritan Club

P.O. Box 126

Montgomery, Indiana 47558



A Tribute to the Life of William Christopher O'Brian Born: July 4, 1922 - July 30, 2020



There have been several members of the Montgomery Ruritan that were consider ICON's in the Organization and in the community but none larger than Chris O'Brian. Chris not only was a charter member of the Montgomery Ruritan Club when it was founded in 1960 but was recently awarded a 60 year certification by the National Ruritan President who visited Montgomery on July 2 of this year. Chris was not able to be present for the award but Albert Kavanaugh accepted it on his behalf and it was later given to his son Terry who is also a member of the local Ruritan Club. Chris served as President and every office in the organization. He also served as Turkey Trot Chairman and served on the Park Board on various occasions.

In the early years of the organization Chris was a vital part of the leadership that helped to bring the Montgomery Ruritan Park into a reality. He worked behind the scenes with various State and Federal organizations to see the project completed to what it is today. He was a valued leader, member and an outstanding worker for the Club. In 1983 Chris was presented with the Service Award that is presented to Ruritan Members of the Club who had given greatly to the service of the Club. He could have received that award many times for the outstanding volunteer work that he done for the club.



Chris O'Brian as he recognized as one of the founding members in July of 2012 by the National Ruritan President on her trip to Montgomery. Chris had just turned 90 years old at the time. See below the same picture appeared in the local newspaper.

Not only was he active in the Community with the Ruritan Club and Park but was on the Town Board and worked with the Montgomery Town Board on various projects in the community. He was a member of St. Peter's Church in Montgomery and was the Postmaster for the Town of Montgomery for many years. He did it all of this and did not ask for recognition but did what he had to do to make his community a better place to live.

I can remember at different times when I needed information for the history of the Club Chris would have it and when he could no longer live at home there were many items and documents that he had saved over the years that his family gave to the club that is now on the Ruritan website as part of the history of the Montgomery Ruritan club.

There are many attributes and praises that could be given to a man like Chris O'Brian for the service to his family, his church and his community but a simple "Thank You" is all we can give here. This community will long remember what

Chris O'Brian did to lead the way for what community service is all about. Chris we Thank You for all you did for the Community and May God Grand You Your Eternal Reward!



Chris O'Brian as a PFC in the Army during WWII

The Following are a few of Chris O'Brian's Involvement in the Montgomery Community

- World War II veteran and served for three years and three months in Europe.
- Served as the postmaster of Montgomery for thirty-two years and contributed a lifetime of service in the Daviess County community.
- Assisted in organizing a local Boy Scout Troop in 1957 in Montgomery and a Cub Scout & Explorer Troop in 1960.
- Instrumental, along with others, in forming the Montgomery Ruritan Club. He was a charter member and served as president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer (twice).
- An organizer of Montco (Montgomery Future Inc.), a non-profit organization formed in the early 1960's to buy neglected properties. The refurbished lots were used for residential and business development. A few of the properties that have been recycled into major community improvements through the effort of Montco are, The Montgomery Housing Development for Senior Citizens, the Montgomery Medical Clinic building, and Barr-Reeve Central Administration Office.
- Formerly served on several boards promoting the interest of senior citizens, such as, Generations Area 13 Agency on Aging and Disability. As a part of Generations, he assisted area senior citizens in completing tax filings for many years.

Other information about Chris O'Brian's Life

- Support community organizations and reached out to the people in need,
- Loved fishing and to be in a boat on the water.
- Drove until he was 92.
- Cared for wife through her illness, he was the primary care giver
- Extremely independent and self-serving
- Always strong and adjustable
- Extremely faithful to the church. Even when he couldn't go to church, he used to watch online and wanted to receive Holy Communion.

Obituary for William "Chris" O'Brian

William Christopher O'Brian, 98, of Montgomery, passed away at 12:55 p.m. Thursday, July 30, 2020, at Emerald Place in Washington. He was born July 4, 1922, in Montgomery, Indiana, to the late James Christopher and Etta (Clements) O'Brian. Chris married Luella (Taylor) O'Brian on Aug. 16, 1947, and she preceded him in death. He was a World War II veteran and served for three years and three months in Europe. Chris served as the postmaster of Montgomery for 32 years and contributed a lifetime of service in the Daviess County community. He assisted in organizing a local Boy Scout Troop in 1957 in Montgomery and a Cub Scout and Explorer Troop in 1960.

Chris was instrumental, along with others, in forming the Montgomery Ruritan Club. He was a charter member and served as president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer (twice). Chris was an organizer of Montco (Montgomery Future Inc.), a non-profit organization formed in the early 1960's to buy neglected properties. The refurbished lots were used for residential and business development. A few of the properties that have been

recycled into major community improvements through the effort of Montco are, the Montgomery Housing Development for Senior Citizens, the Montgomery Medical Clinic building, and Barr-Reeve Central Administration Office.

He formerly served on several boards promoting the interest of senior citizens, such as, Generations Area 13 Agency on Aging and Disability. As a part of Generations, he assisted area senior citizens in completing tax filings for many years. Chris was a member of St. Peter Catholic Church.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Luella O'Brian; parents James Christopher and Etta O'Brian; brother Robert O'Brian. Chris is survived by his children, Gene (Peggy) O'Brian of Bedford, Terry (Donna) O'Brian of Montgomery and Mary Ann (Gary) Woodward of Franklin; grandchildren Sean, Jason, Amanda, Chris (Phadrea), Glen (Lori), Corey (Staci) and Taylor; great-grandchildren, Quinn, Piper, Jazlyn, Eliana, Kegin, Gage, Raylan, Wyatt; brother Donald O'Brian.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Rev. Sudhakar Bhasati at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 3, 2020, at St. Peter Catholic Church in Montgomery. Burial will follow in St. Peter Catholic Cemetery. Visitation will be held Sunday, Aug. 2, 2020, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Peter Catholic Church in Montgomery. The family requests that masks be worn by everyone in attendance. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Helping Hands Christian Ministry c/o Mike Healy, P.O. Box 146, Montgomery, IN 47558 or Montgomery Ruritan Club/Chris O'Brian Community Special Needs Fund. Condolences may be made online at www.blakefuneralhomes.com. Arrangements were provided by Blake & Wagler Funeral Home in Montgomery.



Pictured here is the last 3 active charter members of the Montgomery Ruritan Club along with the National Ruritan President on her tour of the Campgrounds and Turkey Trot Grounds for the Ruritan Club in July of 2012. Pictured (L-R) Jim O'Brian, Chris O'Brian, Phyllis Lewter (Nat. Pres.) and Joe Traylor. All three men have served various offices for the club from President to Turkey Trot Chairman. Chris O'Brian passed away on July 30, 2020 and that leaves just two of the original 29 Members who signed the Charter for the club in 1960.



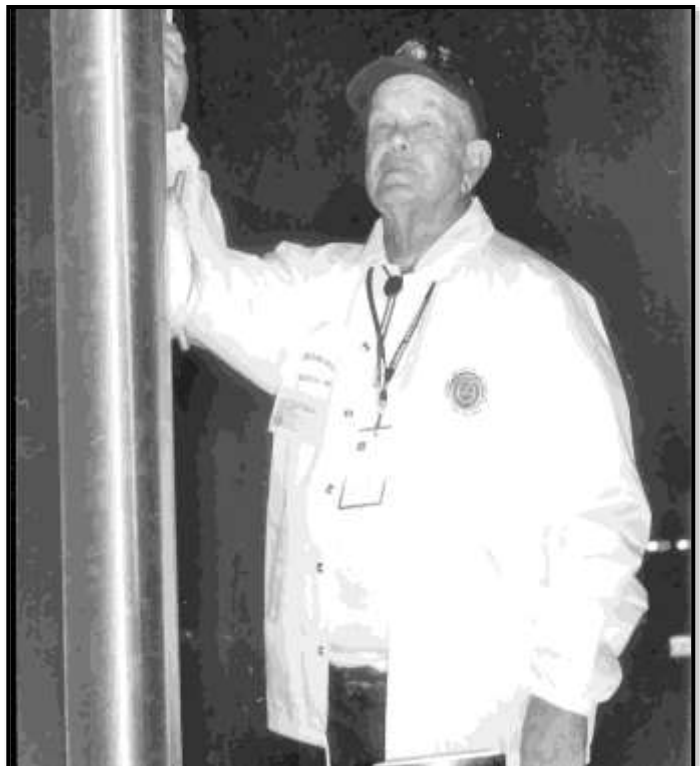
Chris O'Brian on the left as he receives the Ruritan Service Award from President Paul Miller in September of 1981.



This is a picture of Chris racing a turkey with a cart in what we think was at the 1972 Turkey Trot. At that time the road running through the park was closed and used as the Track.



Chris O'Brian on the left as he presents the Championship trophy to the winner of the Turnkey Race Brian Traylor. The young lady on the right was the Queen that year of the Turkey Federation. Picture was taken in the early years of the Turkey Trot.



Chris O'Brian, a decorated World War II veteran was chosen to officially raise the American Flag during a dedication ceremony for the new 35-foot flagpole in front of the Montgomery Ruritan Community Building. The Ruritans chose Friday night, during the 34th Annual Turkey Trot Festival.