

Paul H. Barter, BELMONT - Once served as Gen. Eisenhower's printer

October 20, 2004

BELMONT -- Paul Harrison "Speedy" Barter, 83, died Monday, Oct. 18, 2004, at Laconia Center.

An Anglican committal service will be held Friday at 10 a.m. at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery, Route 3, Boscawen.

The Rev. Dean Steward will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 360 Route 101, Unit 8, Bedford 03110.

The Cremation Society of New Hampshire is in charge of the arrangements.

For more information, visit <http://www.csnh.com>.

Mr. Barter was born in Beverly, Mass., the son of John C. and Dorothy (Walker) Barter on Aug. 27, 1921, and started his life-long love of printing as a 12-year-old apprentice. He graduated from Beverly High School in 1938, where he received two diplomas, one in printing. He excelled in high diving, often diving from the masts of tall ships, and was active in collegiate wrestling and ice skating and was a professional ballroom dancing instructor at Miss James Ballroom Dance School in Salem, Mass. He graduated from the four-year printing course at Wentworth Institute in Boston in two years in 1941 with honors. Barter graduated from Officer Candidate School and was assigned as commander of the U.S. Army 9th Engineers Mobile Printing Unit from 1941 to 1948. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal in 1945 for outstanding technical printing achievement in the face of the enemy up the Omaha Beach-Head, with Unit D + 1. His unit printed top-secret maps and orders for Gen. Eisenhower and his staff. Mr. Barter joined Rumford Press in 1946, working in the Concord and Boston offices until 1950-1952, when he was called back into the Army during the Korean conflict. In 1952, he returned to Rumford Press in Concord as chief of commercial printing production and sales service. From 1957 to 1963, he was sales and production manager of Capitol Offset Company. In 1968, Mr. Barter rejoined Rumford as president of Rumford Litho, North Abington, Mass., a 159-plus-man shop. In 1977, he returned to Rumford Press in Concord as vice president. He was promoted to vice president of Rumford National Graphics Inc., parent corporation to Rumford Press, Rumford Litho, Portland Litho and Journal Press. He retired in 1984 and continued as president of PHB Printing Consultants, aiding several printers in the New England region. He was proprietor of 4-P's Press (antique printing equipment - circa 1870) featured numerous times on NH Television, including NH Crossroads with Fritz Weatherbee. Paul collected many printing artifacts for 71 years, including treadsles and front lever type platen presses, all which function completely. His prized possession was a Golding Pearl Press - Pat. 1871 (treadle operated). For recognition of his lifetime of work and achievement in the printing industry, Mr. Barter received a bachelor's of technology from Wentworth Institute in 1992. Mr. Barter was a life member of the Society of Printers, Boston, from 1949 and the only American member of England's LEG (letterpress exchange group). He was a life member of the American Legion Post No. 1 of Laconia and a 32nd degree Mason of the Blazing Star Lodge No. 11 Scottish Rite, Valley of Concord.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Doris (Graves) Barter of Belmont; his son, David L. Barter of Hopkinton; his two daughters, Deborah E. Kurz of Thornton and Dorothy W. B. Clary of Gaithersburg, Md.; six grandchildren, and a number of beloved nieces and nephews.

In his life he cherished this saying from Robert H. Davies's "I am the Printing Press": "I am the printing press born of the mother earth. My heart is of steel, my limbs are of iron, and my fingers are of brass. I sing the songs of the world, the oratorios of history, the symphonies of all times."