



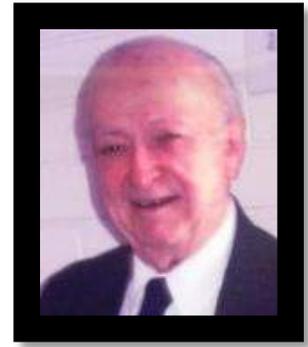
Dale Lemuel Lopshire

Born: Dec. 7, 1925, Allen County, Indiana,

Died: Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008, Benson, AZ

He was **82** when he passed away after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Friends and family are mourning the loss of Southern Arizona business pioneer Dale Lopshire.



Lopshire operated a Ford, Lincoln, Mercury automobile dealership in the early 1950s in Benson, Ariz. After more than 20 years in Benson, he opened Lopshires Ford in Sierra Vista, Ariz. It may be hard to remember for some Sierra Vista residents, but back when he opened the new car dealership on Highway 92, there wasn't much there. Lopshire's vision of the future opened the gates for development along Highway 92 into what it is today.

Dale Lopshire retired from the car business in the early 1980s and then opened a successful real estate brokerage. He also served as executive director of the Southeastern Arizona Contractors Association.

He was very active in both the Benson and Sierra Vista communities. Lopshire was instrumental in the creation of a long running July Fourth celebration in Benson. He also worked very hard to overcome the Interstate 10 bypass of Benson, lobbying state officials for streetlights along Benson's main street. He founded the "See The Light" sale, where local business owners showcased their business to attract those motorists off the interstate to spend money in town. Benson named Lopshire their "Citizen of the Year" in 1969. He was very active in the chamber of commerce in both Benson and Sierra Vista.



Dale Lopshire was also very active in the **Lion's Club**. He chartered several clubs around the state, including Benson and Sierra Vista. He served in many capacities, including Lion's Club District Governor in 1963 and received numerous awards. The Lion's Club International Foundation awarded Lopshire with the Melvin Jones Fellowship, the highest honor conferred by the foundation. He was the first recipient of this award in Arizona.

In addition to the Lions Club, Lopshire also was involved in the **Masonic Lodges**, holding both local and state offices, Dale was a **Past Master** of:

- 1957 — **KING SOLOMON LODGE, N^o 5, F&AM, TOMBSTONE, AZ**
- 1961 — San Pedro Lodge, N^o 55, F&AM, Benson. AZ — and —
- 1991 — Elected Mason of Year in San Pedro Lodge, N^o 55, F&AM
- 1991-92 — appointed Grand Bible Bearer, Grand Lodge of Arizona



Lopshire led the efforts to bring the Harlem Globetrotter's training camp to Sierra Vista, including a televised broadcast of the Globetrotter game from Barnes Field House, Fort Huachuca. During that broadcast, anchored by **Howard Cosell**, the world got a glimpse of Sierra Vista and Cochise County.



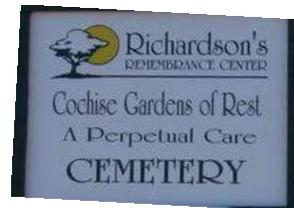
Dale Lopshire served his country in the **Navy** during World War II. During one of his many missions, he watched American troops converge on **Iwo Jima**, and even **saw the historic raising** of both American flags from the bow of his ship.



Dale Lopshire is survived by his wife, **Joan**. They have three children, Teresa (Bill), Debra and Dave (Kim); seven grandchildren, Penny, Tony, Dustin, Mandy, Richie, Allyson and Aubrey; and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Agnes Lopshire; brothers, Robert and Richard; sisters, Alice and Marge. He is survived by brothers, Frank and Harold; sisters, Kathryn and Jane; nephew, Jim Lopshire (Sherleen); niece, Joanne Miller; and numerous great-nieces and great-nephews.

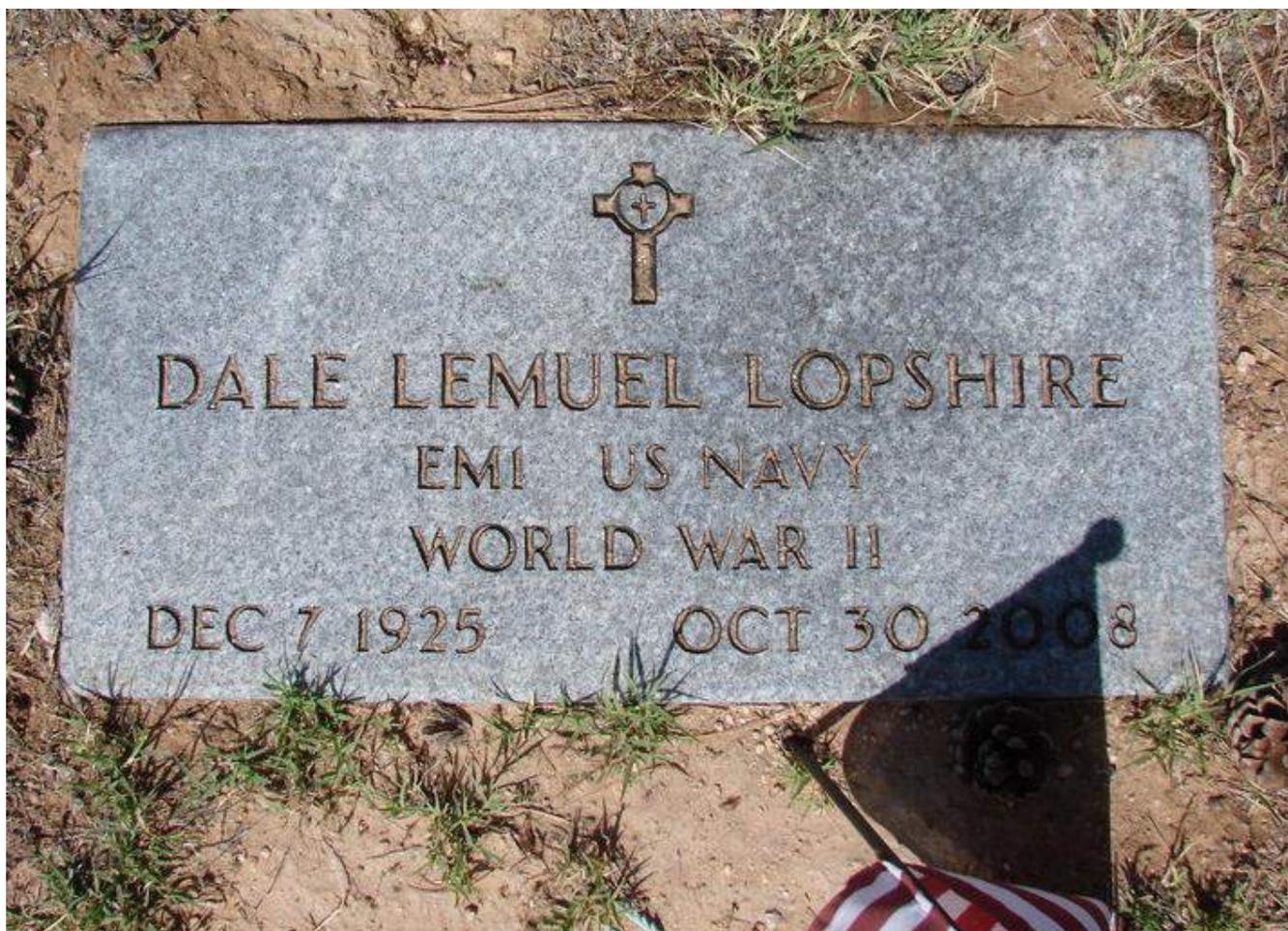
Separate services were held in Sierra Vista and Benson on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008. The first memorial service was at held at 11 a.m. at Sierra Vista Lutheran Church, 101 N. Lenzner Ave. The second service was held at 2 p.m. at Community Presbyterian Church, 590 S. Huachuca St., in Benson.



Burial followed at:

Cochise Gardens of Rest Cemetery in Benson with military honors.

GPS (lat/lon): [31.94944, -110.29056](#)



Parents:

Harry Frank Lopshire (1887 - 1950)
Agnes M Lopshire (1892 - 1975)

Family links:

Siblings:

Richard J Lopshire (1914 - 1971)
Franklin Lopshire (1923 - 2012)
Harold Wayne Lopshire (1928 - 2016)

↓ Scroll down to next page to see the Mason of the Year citation ↓

***San Pedro Lodge No. 55, F. & A.M.
Benson, Arizona***

1991 - MASON OF THE YEAR

Presented to:

DALE LOPSHIRE, PM

For his love of the Fraternity and San Pedro Lodge #55, and his unceasing efforts in furthering the principles which Freemasonry inculcates in each Mason, and by which we are taught daily to live. His efforts on behalf of San Pedro Lodge #55 and the Masonic Fraternity, often at great personal sacrifice and expense, serve as an example to us all and ought to inspire each of us to strive all the more to promote Brotherly Love, Peace, and Fellowship throughout the Fraternity and the community in which we live.

Presented this 4th day of January 1992.



Worshipful Master



Secretary