



Melvin “Mel” “Tubby” Gene Mason was born on January 20, 1934, in Mankato, Minnesota, the last of ten children to Samuel and Josephine (Pierce) Mason. He grew up and received his education in Mankato. In 1952, Mel enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. 1st Sgt Melvin Mason was a proud Marine and served his country for 20 years. He was a veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam wars. Mel proudly displayed his service by the hat he wore on his head and the license plate on his car, among many other things. On September 6, 1958, Mel was married to Irene Fischer. After his honorable discharge, they

made their home in the Lake Lillian community. He owned and operated a blacksmith shop in Lake Lillian for a couple years and retired as a Machinist from Willmar Manufacturing. Mel served as Mayor of Lake Lillian for 12 years. He was a member of the United Lutheran Church in Lake Lillian, the Lake Lillian American Legion Post #0615 and was a life member of the Mankato V.F.W. Post #950. His love for all family was of most importance. Mel was described as a sweet handsome man with the best smile. He was also a wonderful storyteller right until the very end.

Mel passed away Monday morning, March 10, at Bethesda Grand in Willmar at the age of 91.

He is survived by his five children, Lee (and Cheryl) Mason of Silver Lake, Kathleen (and Larry) Kleindl of Willmar, Jeannette (and Doug) Bakken of Northfield, Joan (and John) Archer of Zimmerman and Becky (and Justin Nissen) of New Auburn; twelve grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren, besides other relatives, and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; two sisters, Mary and Charlotte; and seven brothers, James, William, Lloyd, Norman, Theodore, Charles and Robert.

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

**United for our country,
Standing tall against the foe – we**

**Meet the enemy on his own ground
And make it ours. We are
Ready to go where we're needed
In any situation, any conflict.**

**Never intimidated, there's no “give” in us.
Ever vigilant to safeguard our nation's freedom, we**

**Can fight, we can comfort, we can befriend those in
need.**

**Only our enemies have cause to fear.
Resting in the comfort of God and trusting the
Preparedness of our brothers we boldly shout
Semper Fi!**

