

**Joseph Ray Griffith**, one of the twelve children of James Knox (1883-1947) and Winifred Belle (Gault) (1885-1944) Griffith, was born 15 August 1925, Meridian Township, Ingham County, Michigan. According to the 1940 Meridian Township, Ingham County, Michigan US Federal Census, Joseph was living with his parents on a farm in Meridian Township and had completed his first year of high school education. Joseph was likely in the Okemos class of 1944, but instead left for the military before graduating.

Joseph entered the United State Marine Corps in 1943. His Registration Card stated he was "20 Age In Years", but most likely, he was not yet or

Fold3-Page 1-Selective Service Registration Cards World War II Multiple Registrations

FORM APPROVED  
Budget Bureau No. 33-R012-42

**REGISTRATION CARD** (Men born on or after July 1, 1924, and on or before December 31, 1924)  
(Also for the registration of men as they reach the 18th anniversary of the date of their birth on or after January 1, 1943.)

W. SERIAL NUMBER 234A 1. NAME (Print) Joseph Ray Griffith ORDER NUMBER 12,709A  
(First) (Middle) (Last)

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)  
1005 Bensch St. Lansing Ingham Michigan  
(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)

[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON LINE 2 ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]

3. MAILING ADDRESS  
same  
(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same, insert word same)

4. TELEPHONE 27949 5. AGE IN YEARS 20 6. PLACE OF BIRTH Meridian Twp Michigan  
(Exchange) (Number) (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.) (Town or county) (State or country)

DATE OF BIRTH Aug. 15 1925

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS  
Martin Proos, 1005 Bensch St., Lansing, Michigan

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS  
veteran

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS

(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE

DSS Form 1 (Rev. 11-16-42) 16-21630-4 (OVER) Joseph R. Griffith  
(Registrant's signature)

just turned 18. He was described as 5'9", 160 pounds with brown eyes, brown hair and a ruddy complexion.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Sunday 5 March 1944

**GRIFFITH** - Joseph Griffith, marine, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Griffith, of Okemos, has completed a course of training in the aviation machinist's mate school at Memphis, Tenn.



The Memphis, Tennessee based training school Joseph attended was still in operation in the 1970's.

Pvt. Joseph Griffith was honorably discharged from military service in 1946. He married, while still in USMC, Marie Jean Proos 15 April

1945, Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina. After the war Joseph had a career as an industrial parts salesman. He also proudly graduated from Okemos High School in 1947 after satisfying all the course requirements for graduation, receiving his diploma with the other members of the class during Commencement.

Lansing State Journal, May 9, 1945



**MRS. JOSEPH R. GRIFFITH**

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Proos, 1005 Bensch street, announce the marriage of their daughter, Marie J., to Pfc. Joseph R. Griffith of the marines, now stationed at San Diego, Cal. The ceremony took place April 15 at Columbia, S. C. Rev. R. C. Campbell of the First Baptist church of Columbia officiated. Pvt. and Mrs. William C. Goodwin and Pfc. Peter Cicora attended the bride and groom.

Lansing State Journal, May 26, 1947

## Okemos Class Night Program Is Unusual

(Special to The State Journal)

OKEMOS, May 26—Seven young men, who were entered in the United States armed forces before receiving their complete high school work, will receive diplomas Thursday evening at the annual commencement program of the Okemos high school. They have completed their courses since leaving the service, returning to school to do the work. Those completing are: Joseph Griffith, Russell Leach, William Leverett, Clarence Robinson, Ronald Sweetland and Martin Munckel. An unusual presentation of the

V E T E R A N   G R A D U A T E S

The following veterans, who for various reasons had not completed their high school work before entering the armed service, have now satisfied all requirements for graduation. They shall be considered members of the class of 1947 and will receive their high school diplomas with the other members of the class at Commencement time.

Joseph Griffith	United States Marines	1943-46
Russell R. Leach	United States Marines	1941-46
William Leverett	United States Army	1942-46
Clarence Robinson	United States Marines	1943-46
Ronald Sweetland	United States Navy	1943-46
Gerald Thiel	United States Navy	1945-46
Martin Wunkel	United States Navy	1945-46

Joseph and Marie, who was born 14 July 1927, Lansing, would celebrate 66 years and 2 children before Marie's death 4 May 2011, Dimondale, Eaton County, Michigan.

Joseph and Marie's only daughter, Jane, born in 1957, died in 2012. Joseph died 26 May 2013, Dimondale.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Tuesday 28 May 2013

## **JOSEPH R. GRIFFITH**

### **DIMONDALE**

Age 87, died May 26, 2013. Mr. Griffith was born August 15, 1925 in Okemos, a son of James and Winifred Griffith. He was a retired salesman, a World War II Marine veteran and a former member of the Masonic Lodge.

Mr. Griffith was preceded in death by his wife, Marie and his daughter, Jane Kern. Surviving are his son, James (Susan) Griffith of Saranac; three grandchildren, Dianna (Matt) Smith, Michael (Joann) Kern and Jason Kern; three great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews.

Services 11 a.m. Thursday at Field & Leik Funeral Home, Dimondale, with Charles and Renold Griffith officiating. The family will receive friends from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.