

Robert Heft, designed 50-star flag

Published on Sunday, Dec 13, 2009

Associated Press

SAGINAW, MICH.: Robert G. Heft, who is credited with designing and sewing the first 50-star American flag, has died at age 67.

Wakeman Funeral Home said Heft died Saturday at a hospital in Saginaw. The cause of death wasn't available.

Heft made the flag in 1958 as part of a high school history project in Lancaster, Ohio. He spent more than 12 hours creating the design on his mother's Singer sewing machine.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower chose Heft's design to replace the 48-star flag.

Born in Saginaw, Heft left Michigan after his parents separated when he was about a year old. He returned after retiring from Northwest State Community College in Archbold, Ohio, where he was a professor.

His death was reported by WSGW-AM in Saginaw.