



Robert "Bob" Ertmer

October 24, 1929 - November 10, 2019

Robert (Bob) Ertmer, age 90, of Elizabeth, Illinois passed away Sunday, November 10, 2019. His family will hold private services to honor his life. A memorial has been established in his memory to benefit the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the Elizabeth Historical Society. Memorials may be sent to 202 W. Main St., Elizabeth, IL 61028.

Robert was born October 24, 1929 on the family farm near Elizabeth, the son of George and Anna (Becker) Ertmer. He attended the Terrapin Ridge Country School and the Elizabeth High School, graduating with the Class of 1948. During this time and until enlisting in the service, he worked for various area farmers, as well as running the family farm. On June 14, 1958, Robert married Carlene Dittmar. They raised seven children and celebrated sixty-one years of marriage.

Robert enlisted in the US Airforce in 1951 during the Korean War, serving as a Military Police Officer with Top Secret Clearance until 1955 when he was honorably discharged. He was proud of his service and remained active throughout his life in the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. He started with the US Postal Service in 1957 as a clerk in Elizabeth. He also served as a rural carrier in Elizabeth, Hanover and Freeport. He retired in 1984 as the Hanover Postmaster. Robert repaired, restored and refinished furniture and buildings. He also had a painting business, often with a long waiting list, that continued full time for many years after retirement. He believed in always charging a fair price and that a handshake was the only contract needed.

As someone living through the depression, he learned to take advantage of the endless possibilities the land and hard work could provide. With his wife and kids, they managed their 12-acre farm, raising animals and growing anything from vegetables to fruit trees to provide for their family. He was even an avid beekeeper. They not only provided for their family but provided much for neighbors and the community through many dozens of farm fresh eggs or quarts of freshly picked strawberries. Having the children take part in the daily operations of the farm was his way of instilling his values of work ethic and integrity

into his future generations to come.

Woodworking was one of Robert's many talents and hobbies, working with his hands to make many cherished family heirlooms, repairing antiques, and building bird houses and miniature log cabins, just to name a few. He enjoyed fishing with "the guys," taking several trips to Canada, Missouri and Wisconsin, and with his grandchildren, teaching them about life. Robert and Carlene loved spending time together, bird watching, traveling, bowling, and raising a family. He especially treasured his grandchildren. He enjoyed watching their sporting events, giving rides on his tractors and playing Uno and euchre, where he taught them to always hold the ace of spades. He loved reading anything historical and volunteered with the Elizabeth Historical Society. In his later years, there was always a jigsaw puzzle spread out on the dining room table. He started his day with the paper's crossword puzzle and ended his day with his only medication - a gin martini with olives at 4:30 ("Tooni time") - while watching the evening news and Wheel of Fortune.

Throughout his life, Robert was active in the community and most people knew him simply as Bob. He was a member of the Catholic Church of St. Mary in Elizabeth and the Elizabeth-Hanover VFW and American Legion. Through those organizations, he provided opportunities for several students to attend Illinois Boys State, as well as play Legion baseball.

Robert will be dearly missed by his wife, Carlene of Elizabeth; seven children, William "Bill" (Sue) Ertmer of Scales Mound, Kevin (Brenda) Ertmer of Elizabeth, Tim (Tonya) Ertmer of Elizabeth, Joy Ertmer of Elizabeth, Jane (Greg) Hulstedt of Belvidere, Steve (Sheila) Ertmer of Elizabeth and Jenny (Joe) Duey of Tega Cay, South Carolina; eighteen grandchildren; three great-grandchildren with one on-the-way; and two brothers, Alvin Ertmer of Elizabeth and Marion Ertmer of Wake Forest, North Carolina. Robert is preceded in death by his parents; two children at birth; three brothers, Eugene, Raymond and Delbert; and three brothers-in-law, John, Dean and Dave.

Comments



“ Jane, Joy & the whole Ertmer clan,
I was so very sorry to hear of Bob's passing.
Pre-internet days, when he was postmaster in Hanover, I has some friends that I
would write to. I always wrote HI BOB! on the back of the envelope. When my friends
wrote back, he would write HI MEL! on the back of their letters. It always made me
smile.

May your memories of all the good times help you survive this difficult time.

Melody Groezinger, Omaha, NE - November 21, 2019 at 03:26 PM



“ Charlene and family, So sorry to hear of Bob's passing. Sending my sympathy to
you.
Pam Gilmore Darrow.

pam darrow - November 18, 2019 at 05:05 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Ertmer.



November 15, 2019 at 08:53 AM



“ Our sincere sympathy to the Ertmer family during this difficult time of loss. We very
much enjoyed getting to know Robert these last few years and he will be forever
missed, what a truly special man and father he was. Our thoughts and prayers are
with you all during this time.

Jamie & Paul Kluzek - November 15, 2019 at 08:52 AM



“ We have fond memories of Bob and Carlene and all the kids. An exemplary family in
so many ways. Bob was always a kind gentleman with a smile and a laugh. He was
always supportive of the school and first in line to say thanks and give you a pat on
the back. Bob and Carlene raised wonderful kids who also hold special places in our

memories, and hearts. Thank you Bob for making a difference in this world. Jim and Barb Burgett

Jim Burgett - November 14, 2019 at 06:57 PM



“ Our sincere sympathy to the entire Ertmer family on the passing of a very special fishing buddy of my dad's. The guys will all have many fond memories of their fishing adventures, card playing and fish frying.
Lynn and Lynn

Lynn Pease - November 14, 2019 at 06:10 PM



“ So sorry to hear of your dad's passing! You will be in my prayers!

Laurinda Stayer - November 14, 2019 at 03:30 PM



“ Our sincere sympathy to the family for your loss. Sounds like he was a wonderful man. I know he will be dearly missed. Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers.

The D'Amico Family

Donna - November 14, 2019 at 03:00 PM



“ Sorry to hear of Robert's death. I have many memories of playing cards with him and Carlene. I also remember the day of the big Grebner family celebration of our farm being a centennial farm and Robert and Carlene flew over the farm. My sympathy to you, Carlene, and family. LaVerne Grebner

LaVerne Grebner - November 14, 2019 at 01:57 PM



“ What a great guy! My heart goes out to his family (especially Charlene and Tim), and his friends. One of my memories of Bob, that comes to mind, is that he told me I was the best poppy seller. I stood outside the old Elizabeth Post Office and sold the poppies for him....

Colleen Lee - November 14, 2019 at 12:16 PM



“ So sorry to hear about your Dad. You are in our thoughts & prayers Joy and family. Our deepest sympathy, Nancy (Sherman) Mueller

Nancy Mueller - November 14, 2019 at 11:35 AM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Ertmer.



November 14, 2019 at 11:04 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Bob's passing. You have my deepest condolences. Lea Meyer Fowler

Lea Fowler - November 14, 2019 at 09:55 AM



“ Much Love & Sympathy to you all during this time! So Sorry for your loss. Lloyd & Lisa Haas Family

Lisa Haas - November 14, 2019 at 09:11 AM



“ Sending our sincere sympathy to the entire Ertmer family for the loss of your beloved Robert. Larry and Carol Elliott

Carol Elliott - November 13, 2019 at 03:40 PM



“ We're so very sorry for the loss of Robert. It certainly sounds like his was a life well lived. May all of your happy memories carry you through this sad time. Art and Donna Marcotte

Donna Marcotte - November 16, 2019 at 04:27 PM