



John R. "Jack" Ertmer

JAN 24, 1920 - SEP 4, 2009



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Space would not allow us to recount all of the stories and memories, the accomplishments and hijink, or the humor and the wisdom of our late Jack Ertmer, who left us peacefully in his home on Friday, September 4, 2009. Born John Raymond Ertmer on January 24, 1920 in Mitchell, SD, Jack was one of ten children. During the Depression he worked to help his father support their family and after graduating from Aquin High School in Freeport, IL, in 1939, he served his country with the U.S. Navy from 1940 to 1946. During World War II he was stationed at Pearl Harbor and was 21 years old on historic December 7, 1941. He served aboard the U.S.S. Kearsarge, After five more years of service, he was honorably discharged and was awarded the American Defense Star Ribbon, American Area Ribbon, Asiatic Pacific Area Ribbon, Good Conduct Ribbon and the World War II Victory Medal. On June 6, 1947 he married Mary Cecelia Henry and moved to Elizabeth, IL where they started their family and lived for several years. The Ertmers finally settled in Oshkosh, where he owned Jack's Service on Washington Avenue for many years. He was always so proud to say how many wonderful people he'd met and how he could call them all friends. Avid fisherman, renowned handy man, golfer, hunter, wood worker, mechanic, gardner...this list could go on, as there are few things the man did not do. There was no question he could not answer, no task he could not complete and nothing he ever forgot. He was humble, stubborn, gracious, independent, kind, funny, hardworking and amazingly selfless. This world is a greater place for having known him and this obituary is hard pressed to even remotely testify to the greatness of his character. He had an enormous impact on all who knew him and he will be very, very deeply missed. He was greeted in Heaven by his daughter: Nancy Ann Ertmer, his parents: Robert and Mayme (Clancy) Ertmer; his sisters: Patricia Costello, Shirley O'Rourke, Margaret Ertmer, Pauline Pirages, Dorothy Rife and Bernice Wertschnig; his brothers: Lawrence and Robert Ertmer and many other friends and



Obituary

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family members. And he lives on in the hearts and minds of his loving wife of 62 years: Mary Ertmer; his sister: Sister Adelle Ertmer of Milwaukee; his children: Richard (Susan) Ertmer, Mary Margaret (Mark) Davis both of Oshkosh; his grandchildren: Ben Davis and Nikki Davis both of Oshkosh and B.J. (Holly) Ertmer and Jon (Liz) Ertmer both of Appleton and countless other family, friends and neighbors.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 9, 2009 in the Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church (St. Mary's site) on the corner of Merritt and Monroe Street, with Rev. Fr. Jim Jugenheimer as celebrant. Burial will follow in Calvary Cemetery with full military rites. Friends may greet the family from 9 to 11 a.m., Wednesday in the church. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for Mary C. Ertmer, of whom he always took loving care, a privilege that must now be passed onto us. Online condolences may be made at: fissbillspoklasny.com

Fiss & Bills Funeral Home 865 S. Westhaven Drive 920-235-1170



Tribute Wall

John R. "Jack" Ertmer

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ER

Eugene Reeser posted:

Dear Ertmer Family especially Mary. We are deeply saddened by Jacks passing yet consider ourselves fortunate for having known him. Both Jack and Mary welcomed us as neighbors back in 1993 and we quickly realized what wonderful friends we have made. Jack was a daily part of our lives for many years, weather it was advise on buying a used car or a tool we needed to borrow or just some one to sit and share a beer with while he recounted stories of his wonderful life, we could always count on Jack. We will always remember his sense of humor,his gentile smile (complete with tooth pic)and his genuine love for family and friends. We'll miss you Jack, God bless you
Eugene,Sandra,John & Kirstin Reeser

September 8 at 4:22 AM

TT

Todd, Kristl & Kali Thompson posted:

Dear Ertmer Family-You are in our thoughts and prayers as you go through this difficult time.Todd, Kristl and Kali Thompson

September 8 at 3:32 AM

RP

Ron Potts posted:

My condolences to the families of Mr John Ertmer. Even though I never knew him, I learned much about him from Dick, then salesman for Johnson Foods. I Pray that knowing others are thinking of you in your time of sorrow will help you with the passing of Mr Ertmer. God Bless you all.Ron PottsWild Rose

September 7 at 5:26 AM



Larry Costello posted:

I was deeply impressed and moved by the obituary that I read. Jack was a tremendous individual... truly a one of a kind. He was a very proud and loving husband, father and grandfather. And Jack extended this love in so many ways to his sisters and brothers and their families. But most impressive of all, was Jack's deep faith and devotion to Jesus and his Blessed Mother. He truly loved and lived his faith, which was a profound inspiration to me and others. I remember as a child when mom and dad would tell us that Uncle Jack and Aunt Mary were coming to visit us with the kids - Nancy, Dick and Mary. These were very special times. The gatherings were genuinely great fun, full of stories, good food and drink, and lots of laughs. Anyone who knows him can tell you that Jack could tell a story and a joke better than anyone.. And, there were many times he had my mom and dad in tears - laughing and gasping for air. Once you got him going, he was relentless with his stories and one-liners and he was not shy about showing his loud laugh and tears as he shared them with everyone around him. This man was truly a joy to be with and to call a friend. I have known no one like him and probably never will. And, during those difficult times, Jack was a rock of support. He would be the mediator, the confidante, and the problem solver on many occasions. When my mom and dad needed support or encouragement, Jack was always there for them. He was so selfless, so conscientious, so caring, and so genuine. The only time when I saw Jack vulnerable to life's challenges is when he lost little Nancy. When his precious daughter left this world a big part of Jack went with her. He loved Nancy very much and would have traded places with her in a heartbeat. Jack had his opinions about things such as politics, business, and many other topics; and, he was not shy about sharing them with others especially over a beer or two. He would not shy from an argument if he got you into one and that German bull-headedness was very apparent at times. But even if you didn't totally agree with Jack, you always respected what he had to say AND he would always kick in a joke or funny statement to make sure the conversation didn't go too far or end on a sour note. What a guy! Jack was a war hero, who never bragged: he was a devoted family man, who worked very hard and diligently; he was only high-school educated who was very astute to the issues and principles of life; and, he was a role model, who I am very proud to call my uncle. I will miss him very much. Our deepest condolences to his wonderful wife, Mary, his children Dick and Mary, their respective spouses, and Jack's grand children. Your husband, dad, and grandpa was one in a trillion! Love Larry, Vicki, Nick and Nathan Costello

September 5 at 12:20 PM



Larry Costello posted:

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September 5 at 12:20 PM



Keith Dolan posted:

Dear Ertmer Family, God bless Jack, and all of you. Jack was a great man and just a nice guy to all who knew him. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Keith Dolan Family Oshkosh, WI

September 5 at 12:20 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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