

**Jerome Rauterkus, 87****Dec. 3, 1927 - April 7, 2015**

**MANILLA** — Jerome August Rauterkus "Shorty" was born on December 3, 1927 to Lawrence and Lucy (Kenkel) Rauterkus. In earlier years, he shucked corn by hand on his dad's farm, took a train to Omaha to work in a packing house, worked at the Dunlap sale barn as a yardman in 1950, as a bartender, and a farm hired man. He also followed the crop harvest into Canada.

February 18, 1954, he was united in marriage to Mary Beth Jensen in Harlan. They became parents to seven children: Deb, Richard, Jean, Sam, Renee, Rob, and Cherri. Shorty had a lifelong farming career that also included raising cattle, hogs, and chickens. He milked cows and also had a cow-calf operation. He enjoyed traveling and in his younger days, did quite a bit of bowling, dancing, playing cards, and fishing. Most of all, he enjoyed time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Shorty and Mary also hosted two foreign exchange students - Patty from Chile and Kris from Sweden. He was a current member of Sacred Heart Church in Manilla and a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus Earling Council No. 1741. He lived most of his life in the surrounding area including Manilla, Harlan, Dunlap, and Earling. He entered the Manilla Manor in June of 2014 and as his health began to deteriorate on Easter Sunday 2015, he was admitted to hospice care at Myrtue Medical Center where he peacefully left his earthly home on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 having attained the age of eighty-seven years, four months, and four days.

Shorty was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Mary, and all of his brothers and sisters: Mariann Muenchrath, Walter Rauterkus, Margaret Goeser, Magdalene Hastert, Marcus Rauterkus, Katherine Rauterkus, Lucille Rauterkus, Ivo Rauterkus, and Lawrence Rauterkus. He is survived by his children: Deb (Chris) Martin of Seadrift, TX, Richard Rauterkus (Kay Stoullil) of Manilla, Jean (Steve) Drey of Storm Lake, Sam (Julie) Rauterkus of Manilla, Renee (Dan) Brown of Petoskey, MI, Rob Rauterkus of Manilla, and Cherri (Ramon) Martinez of Kyle, TX; ten grandchildren: Stacy (Steve) Hedrick, T. J. (Angie) Christensen, Tyrel (Catelin) Drey, Tasha Drey, Sean (Lindsay) Rauterkus, Seth Rauterkus, Kiley Rauterkus (fiancé Kyle Vetter), Shelby Brown, Chevelle (Evan) Dille, and Jerome Martinez; seven great-grandchildren: Hunter and Conner Hedrick, Briley Christensen, Madelyn, Emersen, and Camden Rauterkus, and Caiden Dille; as well as other family members and friends.

The 11:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Rev. John Gerald and concelebrated by Rev. Robert Gralapp at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Manilla on Friday, April 10, 2015. Irene Feilmeier accompanied the Sacred Heart Choir. Serving as casket bearers were Chevelle Dille, Stacy Hedrick, T.J. Christensen, Sean Rauterkus, Seth Rauterkus, Jerome Martinez, Kiley Rauterkus, Tyrel Drey, Tasha Drey, and Shelby Brown. Interment was held at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Manilla.



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