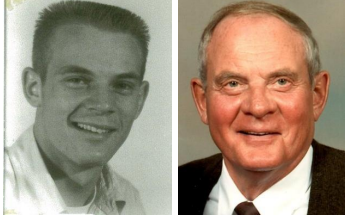


**Lawrence W. "Larry" Gauger**

Gauger, Lawrence W. "Larry"

Lawrence W. "Larry" Gauger, born on June 27, 1933 to Lawrence and Ruth (Wolf) Gauger, passed away at Parkview Health Center surrounded by his family on January 21, 2016 following a gradual physical and mental decline from dementia. Larry attended the old Oshkosh High School and worked at what was called at the time Motor Truck for 43 years. When he started he was one of 200 employees. In 1952 he signed a minor league baseball contract with the Cincinnati Reds. He played in the Pioneer League in Ogden, Utah. While there he played with Hall of Famer, Frank Robinson. In 1953 he was drafted into the Army during the Korean War. Larry played on the 5th Army basketball and baseball team during his two years of service. After being honorably discharged, he returned to Ogden to continue his baseball career. Unfortunately, he struggled hitting the curve ball and was released at the end of the 1955 season and returned to Oshkosh. To stay connected to baseball he played with the Oshkosh Giants. As he got older he coached Babe Ruth baseball and played slow pitch softball with Red's Pizza, Motor Truck and Jerry's Bar. He also played semi-pro basketball with Wertsch Motors, Haberkorn's Bar and Arv's All Stars. His biggest joy was watching his son and grandson's participate in the sport he loved the most.

Larry is survived by and his memory will be cherished by his wife of 62 years, Pauline; one son and four daughters, Laura (Rod Sr.) Gruse, Paula Wing (Dennis Golliher), Patricia (Steve) Ackley, Lynn (Jeff) Andrews, Gary (Lisa) Gauger; eleven grandchildren, Cory (Kristin) Ruhl, Jaime (Benjamin) Mueller, Jason and Amanda Wing, Kevin and Ryan Ackley, Nate and Garrett Andrews, triplets, Brittany, Mitchell and Tylor Gauger; six great-grandchildren, Brayden, Parker and Peyton Ruhl, Nora, Devan and Isaiah Mueller and sister Carol Gauger, sister and brother-in-laws, Emily Nielsen, Ralph and Dolly Nielsen, Joyce and Bill Ceelen, Mary Jane and Dennis Shebasta, Susan and Bob Samer and many more relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents Lawrence and Ruth; a brother Harry Gauger; also in-laws, Harold and Mary Nielsen; brother-in-law, Harold Nielsen; sister-in-law, Patricia Nielsen.

We would like to thank Jerry Stadler for giving Larry the joy of fishing with him for many years. Ralph Nielsen for taking Larry to high school basketball games, which was not easy. Jim Rabe for visiting and giving him all the tomatoes he could possibly can. John Spanbauer for calling every day in the early stage of his illness. Ken Parsons, Dan Davis and Paul Moylan for their many visits and Father Bill Van DeKreeke for his Sunday visits. We are also forever grateful for the kindness and compassion the staff on Lakeside 2 at Parkview Health Center gave Larry during his stay. Larry will always be remembered for his gentle soul and his quick wit to make others around him smile and laugh. Though Alzheimer's took your mind, it was unable to take your spirit. Forever and always in our hearts.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Larry on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. in St. Jude Parish, St. Vincent Catholic Church, the corner of Oregon St. and W. South Park Ave in Oshkosh. The Reverend Matt Simonar and William Van DeKreeke will celebrate the Mass. A time of visitation will be held at the church on Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. until the time of Mass. In lieu of floral expressions a memorial fund is being established. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the:

Fiss & Bills-Poklasny Funeral Homes

920-235-1170



**Funeral Home**

**Fiss and Bills Poklasny Funeral Home**

865 S. Westhaven Dr Oshkosh, WI 54904

920-235-1170

**Published in Oshkosh Northwestern on Jan. 24, 2016**

---