

Richard J. Gutowski, age 86 of Stronach, Michigan died at his home on Wednesday morning, May 19, 2010 surrounded by his family. He was born March 29, 1924 in Manistee, Michigan and was the son of the late Jacob and Frances (Olenchak) Gutowski. He served as a sergeant in the United States Army during World War II from July 13, 1943 until February 9, 1946, where he was involved in the battle of the Ryukyu Islands of Okinawa, the Philippine and Southern Philippine Islands.

He married Shirley Ann Rogers on June 9, 1951 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Manistee. Richard was employed as an electrician for 34 years at the Packaging Corporation of America in Filer City, Michigan, until his retirement in 1986. As most people in our area do, he had a great love for the outdoors, which he tried to pass on to his family and grandchildren. He was a member of St. Mary's of Mt. Carmel Shrine Church of Manistee, where he was an usher and member of the St. Mary's Men's Club, he also was a member of the National Rifle Association, and a life member of the VFW Walsh Post #4499 of Manistee.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Shirley A. Gutowski of Stronach, his daughter and son in-law, Teresa and Richard Helminiak of Beulah, MI, Four sons and two daughters in-law, Michael Gutowski of Manistee, MI, Timothy and Sandie Gutowski of Traverse City, MI, Patrick Gutowski of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Scott and Cathy Gutowski of Lowell, MI, ten grandchildren, Joshua, Bryan (Amy), Jacob, Mark, Luke, John, Jacob, Aaron, Alicia and Amy, three great grandchildren, Sidney, Lexie, and Evan, Three sisters and two brothers in-law, Florence Rockwell of Ludington, MI, Katherine and William Tomczyk of Detroit, MI, and Jeanette Weaver of Manistee, MI, and Edward A. Williams of Manistee, MI, four brothers and three sisters in-law, Edmond "Mickey" Gutowski of Manistee, MI, Valentine "Bill" and Linda Gutowski of Traverse City, MI, Jim and Charlotte Gutowski of Manistee, MI, and Gordon and Maureen Gutowski of Muskegon, MI, and his special buddy - Uncle Bob Robertson. Numerous nieces and nephews also survive him.

He was preceded in death by his sister Mary M. Williams, his brother in-law, Bernard Rockwell and by his nephew Brian Gutowski.

Mass from The Order of Christian Funerals will be celebrated Saturday, May 22, 2010 at 11:00 AM at St. Mary's of Mount Carmel Shrine Church in Manistee with Rev. John McCracken celebrant. Burial will follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery also in Manistee. The family will receive friends at the church on Saturday morning from 9:00 AM until the time of the funeral mass.

A memorial will be established in Richard's name for Munson Hospice. Envelopes are available at the funeral home and will be available at the church on Saturday morning.

Richard's life was devoted to his God and family and "Always had a smile for everyone".