

**Joseph F. “Billy” –“Ole” Oleniczak**, age 101, of St. Mary’s Parkway, Manistee, Michigan died Monday, August 19, 2013

He was born February 8, 1912 in Manistee, Michigan and was the son of the late Michael and Clara (Kroll) Oleniczak. Joe married Virginia Jaremba on November 20, 1937 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Manistee. They have celebrated over 75 years of marriage. He was a former employee of the Marshall Field Shirt Factory, Morton Salt Company and spent 35 years as shipping supervisor at the Glen of Michigan he also was employed for 9 years at the Hardy Salt Company, from which he retired. He was a communicant of St. Joseph Catholic Church of Manistee.

Second only to the love Joe had for his bride of over 75 years was his love and passion for music. A self-taught musician of both the drums and the tenor saxophone, his biggest regret in life was not having had the opportunity to go on to school to study music and become a music teacher. Not being able to read music in the traditional way was no deterrent for Joe. He came up with his own system of writing music and spent countless hours listening to songs on his cassette player; then writing out the notes to those songs using his own system; and then transposing each of his manuscripts into different keys. One of the highlights of his life was getting an autograph from a musician he admired greatly – Boots Randolph. Joe played in numerous dance bands throughout his life. Some of those bands included The MelloTones, The Hajec Brothers, Calies Trio, Five Dukes of Rythym, Jack Sudlin Band of Rock Island, IL, Hanki Beyer Band, Larry Luczyk Band, Als Swihcsters, Bob Meyers Band, Evert Hansen Band, Frannie Powers Band, Larry’s Larks, Ethel Herndon Band, Honky Tonk Band, and the Nite Notes.

Joseph is survived by his wife Virginia M. Oleniczak of Manistee, MI, two half-sisters and their spouses, Ceil and Ralph Krusniak of Manistee and Germaine Habkirk of Flint, his half brother Donald Oleniczak of Hamtramck, and two sisters-in-law Genevieve Oleniczak and Valeria “Verle” Wosniewski, both of Manistee, MI, a brother-in-law Ed Beyer of Ludington, MI and two special nieces and caregivers, Julie Gentz and Marcia LaFreniere. Numerous nieces, nephews and cousins also survive him.

Joe was also preceded in death by his step-mother Agnes Oleniczak, two brothers, Edwin Oleniczak and Raymond Oleniczak, four sisters Virginia Kott, Emaline Baker, Bernice Izdebski and Martha Oleniczak, three half sisters Eleanor Klett, Mary Beyer and Clara Dahlke, three step sisters Rose Cerny, Lilian Wosniewski and Josephine Jameson and by one step brother Michael Wosniewski.

Mass from The Order of Christian Funerals will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 24, 2013 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Manistee, MI with Reverend John McCracken celebrant. Burial will follow at Mount Carmel Cemetery also in Manistee.

The family will receive friends from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, August 23, 2013 at the Herbert Funeral Home in Manistee where an evening vigil service will be prayed at 8:00 p.m.

Memorials have been established in Joe’s name for Saint Joseph Catholic Church and Manistee Catholic Central Schools. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

The Herbert Funeral Home of Manistee is in charge of funeral arrangements.