

Seneca, KS



Gilbert Bernard Osterhaus, 82, of Seneca died on February 21, 2012 at Crestview Manor Nursing and Residential Living in Seneca, after recently being hospitalized and diagnosed with Acute Leukemia.

He was born east of St. Benedict on September 4, 1929 the son of Bernard J. and Pauline Runnebaum Osterhaus. Gilbert attended Rock School and graduated on May 25, 1947 from St. Mary's Catholic High School, in St Benedict. On May 12, 1953, Gilbert enlisted in the Army, serving his country during the Korean War, at Fort Carson in Colorado. He was assigned to H/S Company 12 Engineer Battalion; and most of his duties were in the Motor Pool, appointed as a personal driver for the Company Commander. He was honorably discharged from the military in 1955.

On June 27, 1955 he married Barbara "Bobbie" Haug at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Seneca. The couple made their home in Seneca where they raised eight children and celebrated 56 years of marriage. With his brother-in-law H. Joseph Love, he owned and operated the Love and Osterhaus Builders, constructing several homes in Seneca and the surrounding area, including the 1973 addition to Lauer Funeral Home. He retired in 1987; but, even in retirement he enjoyed "tinkering" and would do odd jobs for widowed ladies in the community.

He was a member of Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church and the Earl W. Taylor Post #21, serving as a past Post Commander. He served on the Seneca City Council from 1983 to 1987. Gilbert was elected onto the Seneca Volunteer Fire Department in February of 1962. He served his community for 20 years with dedication, holding various fire department offices: Lieutenant of Truck #2 1970- 1971, Dance Committee 1963, 1964 1968, 1973 and Fire Police 1979-1982. He was a prince of a man who always had a contagious smile and an optimistic view of life. He enjoyed reading westerns, genealogy, and woodworking.

He is survived by his wife, six sons, Tom Osterhaus of Seneca, Ben Osterhaus of Rio Rancho, New Mexico, Dave Osterhaus of Houston, Texas, Dean Osterhaus of Wetmore, Brian Osterhaus and Cory Osterhaus both of Seneca; two daughters, Gail Lintner of Cameron, Missouri and Marlene Ferguson of Hutchison, Kansas; three sisters, Lucille Winkler and Edna Love, both of Seneca, and Edith Kongs of Manhattan and 14 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Bernice Rettele and a brother, Leonard Osterhaus. Rosaries will be prayed at 2 & 7 PM on Friday, February 24th, at Lauer Funeral Home in Seneca. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10AM Saturday at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Seneca. The funeral procession to the church cemetery will be escorted by

the Seneca Fire Department and the American Legion Riders Post #21. Full military honors will be provided by the Seneca Memorial Post #7458 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Earl W. Taylor Post #21.

Memorials may be left in Gilbert's memory to Seneca Free Library and the American Legion Baseball.