



Elmer Rieck

June 10, 1939 - June 25, 2007

Elmer Rieck -- Bourbonnais Visitation for Elmer Gerald Rieck, 68, of Bourbonnais, will be from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday at the Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, west Kankakee. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday at St. Teresa Catholic Church, Kankakee. Father Tom Cargo will officiate. Burial will follow immediately after the funeral Mass at All Saints Cemetery, Bourbonnais, where Elmer will be laid to rest with his beloved wife, Joan. You may send flowers (as many as you'd like) or donations may be made in Elmer's name to a charity of the donor's choice. He died Monday (June 25, 2007) at his home, from a longtime illness. Mr. Elmer G. Rieck was the proud owner of Busse and Rieck Flowers and Gifts until his retirement, due to health issues in 2003. He loved his work. He was born June 10, 1939, the son of Marie Louise Francoise Eugene Messier and Elmer A. Rieck, in the same Bourbonnais farmhouse that his mother and her 17 sisters and brothers were born in, 208 River St., which is one of, if not the oldest, residences in Bourbonnais. His father, Elmer Andrew Rieck, died in 1976. Elmer attended and graduated from Kankakee High School in 1957. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in floraculture and ornamental horticulture from the University of Illinois in 1962. He served in the U.S. Army from 1962 to 1965. Mr. Rieck worked in the floral industry for 49 years, starting as a freshman in high school in 1954, when he worked for Busse's Sunnyside Greenhouse as a cleanup and delivery boy. He was a Busse's employee, part time, through high school and college, until he went into the Army in 1962. On

his return from service, he worked for Phillip's Flowers, a popular floral chain in the Chicago area, from 1965 to 1977. In 1977, Elmer and his wife, the former Joan Lee Pardy (married in 1967), of Bourbonnais, returned to Kankakee with their two daughters, Jenny Rebecca and Stacy Lee. They opened Rieck's Gardencraft Florist Shop. In 1978, the Riecks bought Busse's Sunnyside Greenhouse and renamed it Busse and Rieck Flowers and Gifts. In 1981, a second store was added in Bourbonnais and the Court Street Rieck's Gardencraft Florist Shop in Kankakee was closed. Elmer and his wife, Joan, worked together as a team in the business they loved. They were both very active in the floral industry and served on many district, regional, and national committees, including the district and regional board of directors, and as officers of both Floral Transworld Delivery (FTD) and Teleflora, floral trade associations, as well as the Illinois State Florist Association, where they each served as board member and as treasurer for many years. Elmer was elected Illinois State Florist of the Year in 1995 at an annual conference in Decatur. He was also elected to national prominence in the American Academy of Floraculture and earned Master Designer status from the FTD Association. In addition, Busse and Rieck Flowers and Gifts was repeatedly recognized by FTD as one of the top 100 flower shops in the country. Mr. Rieck joins his wife, Joan Lee Pardy Rieck, who preceded him in death on Nov. 10, 1990. Surviving are his mother, Marie Louise Francoise Eugene Messier Rieck Paradies of Kankakee; daughters, Jenny Rebecca Rieck Garda of Chicago, and Stacy Lee Rieck Beresh of Cincinnati, Ohio; sons-in-law, Clinton John Garda and John Erik Beresh; and Elmer's newest buddy, Alexander Belmont Beresh, first grandson, born Feb. 20, 2007. Mr. Rieck loved gardening, reading, playing cards, antiquing, collecting, spending time with his daughters, and all things beautiful.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Album



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - December 07, 2010 at 02:05 PM



“ Elmer was a very kind and gentle man who loved everyone and showed them he did. ĩ½My cousin Joan and him were so very much in love and did so much for so many. ĩ½When she was ill he took such good care of her and we all thanked him for being a blessing in her life. ĩ½Stacy and Jenny are two very fine young women and can be proud of their heritage. ĩ½Even though both Joan and Elmer left this earth early, they have been a huge blessing to so many family members and friends. I'm sure God will take good care of them. ĩ½Take heart that we are His children and if we believe He died for us and rose again to reign in heaven at the right hand of the Father that we shall have everlasting life. Praise God.##imported-begin##Dan & Linda Reising##imported-end##

June 26, 2007 at 08:47 AM



“ NULL##imported-begin##Jerry and Sudie Hayden##imported-end##

June 26, 2007 at 08:47 AM



“ It was heartening to talk to you Jenny last Wednesday and sorry we missed Fran and Stacey. ĩ½We have always regarded Elmer as an adopted son...part of our family...and join with you in experiencing a loss and void in our lives. ĩ½Our prayers and love are with you and your families. Pat and Orv###imported-begin##Orville and Pat Busse###imported-end##

June 26, 2007 at 08:47 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to his daughters and their family's and friends.

He will be sorely missed at our 50th high school reunion.

Sincerely,

Marcia E. Brouillette Burkhalter Dickman###imported-begin##Marcia E. Brouillette Burkhalter Dickman###imported-end##

June 26, 2007 at 08:47 AM



“ ĩ½Jay and I were classmates of Elmers. ĩ½We served on the reunion committee along with him many years ago. He was a gentle soul always with a smile. ĩ½We ran into him at Barnes and Noble more than once and had coffee with him. ĩ½He was a kind man and a pleasure to have known him. We will miss him at our 50th Class Reunion this year.###imported-begin##Jay and Marilyn Martin###imported-end##

June 26, 2007 at 08:47 AM



“ I took care of Elmer as a patient at Provena St. Mary's Hospital. ĩ½I loved taking care of him as a patient. ĩ½I miss greatly miss seeing him and taking care of him###imported-begin##Amy Creek###imported-end##

June 26, 2007 at 08:47 AM



“ I love you and will miss you. I've been thinking alot about the time I spent at the house and thank God for every moment with you all!

I love you!

~Katy###imported-begin###Katy###imported-end###

June 26, 2007 at 08:47 AM



“ I always had great inspiration and admiration for both your mom and dad. ĩ¿½

I am so sorry for your loss, I didnt know he was sick. You have All your memories to sustain you. Congrats to Stacy and your husband on your new son. Hugs and kisses to all. I remember your mom's funeral it was an awesome service with Father Tony. Knowing your dad and mom are reunited should give you strength and peace. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.Take care and God bless. Marva Stauffer
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June 26, 2007 at 08:47 AM



“ Usually when I leave a job I never look back but not Busse and Rieck! Elmer was more than a boss, he was someone I admired.

Thanks to Elmer and Busse and Rieck I was able to find my passion and develope my skills. I am forever grateful. I will hold those memeories forever!

Jenny, Stacy and Fran you are beautiful ladies with a beautiful Dad and son. I will keep you in my prayers to help you through these hard days ahead.###imported-begin###Paulla###imported-end###

June 26, 2007 at 08:47 AM



“ Elmer was a pleasure to take care of. I will miss him dearly. Pat Lambert

June 26, 2007 at 08:47 AM



“ I wish to pass my feelings of sympathy to the family of Elmer. He was one I would seek out in a crowd because of his compassion. I enjoyed each visit with him. He paid attention to details and I liked that very much. Our daughters wedding some 24 years ago was done beautifully thanks to Elmer.
Ruth Rosenboom

June 26, 2007 at 08:47 AM



“ Very sorry to hear of Elmer's sickness and then his passing. (Was out of town.) I'll always be grateful for the employment he provided me. To be able to say that I worked at 'Busse and Rieck' meant something! Thanks to Elmer for many fine opportunities.

June 26, 2007 at 08:47 AM



“ Dear family, I am so sorry for the loss
of your dear Elmer. I was a high school
girl in 1960, and Butch (as Orville and
Pat called him) was also a young employee.
Years later I learned that he had become the owner of
the shop. I still work as a designer now and then. Those
memories of the greenhouse, holiday plant wrapping, packing up
the delivery van, re-potting plants, have Butch right in the middle.
Please know that he was very respected and appreciated even
when we were very young. Sincerely, Erma Ohlendorf
Erma (Ditterline) Ohlendorf

June 26, 2007 at 08:47 AM



“ Jenny and Stacy, I am truly sorry for the loss of your Dad. I
wanted you to know that you and your families are in my thoughts
and prayers.
Carmin Joffe
(Hammond)
Carmin Joffe
(Hammond)

June 26, 2007 at 08:47 AM



“ Dear Jenny and Stacy,

It is with sad hearts that we learned of the passing of your dad. While we hadn't seen him for awhile, especially after our move to Arizona, we remember him as a wonderfully kind man who did a great job raising two beautiful daughters. We're sure your mom greeted your dad with open arms and a show tune!

He certainly must have enjoyed getting to know that new grandson (congrats to you and your husband, Stacy). We hope that you will have a treasure of happy memories of both your Mom and Dad to see you through these difficult days.

You will both be in our thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Wayne and Cheryl Segneri###imported-begin###Cheryl Segneri###imported-end###

June 26, 2007 at 08:47 AM



“ Elmer was a dear and caring man who will be missed but never forgotten.###imported-begin###Becca Cleeland###imported-end###

June 26, 2007 at 08:47 AM



“ We didn't get to know your father all that well. ĩ½But, we do know that he was always gracious and Myrtle always enjoyed his company. ĩ½He was a successful husband, father, grandfather, and businessman. ĩ½His family was certainly proud of him and all his accomplishments. ĩ½That is the true measure of a man. ĩ½He loved his family, and we're sure he was grateful that he got to meet Alexander Belmont. ĩ½He will now be, Alex's very own guardian angel. ĩ½Memories will live in everyone's heart, who knew and loved him. ĩ½###imported-begin###Bob and Betty Riedner###imported-end###

June 26, 2007 at 08:47 AM



“ *Mr Rieck was a very kind man who I will miss. It was a privilege to assist him with his banking business.##imported-begin##Rita McClure##imported-end##*

June 26, 2007 at 08:47 AM