



James Fitzgerald

April 21, 1924 - February 7, 2006

James Fitzgerald -- Bourbonnais James Patrick Fitzgerald of Bourbonnais passed away Tuesday morning (Feb. 7, 2006) following a brief illness. He was a devoted son and brother, a brave soldier, a diligent craftsman, an active teacher and leader in the local Catholic community and a loving husband and father who blended affection, wisdom, and good example in the highest degree. He was born the second child of James Patrick and Irene Lyons Fitzgerald of Boone, Iowa, April 21, 1924. In the summer of 1944 he flew 30 missions as lead radio operator in B-17s over Germany and occupied France. After his service with the Eighth Air Force, he settled in Kankakee as an employee of the Illinois Bell Telephone Company and worked for that company until retiring in 1984. In 1947 he married Norma L. Denault of Herscher and with her was the devoted parent of seven children. In his work he was a highly skilled and reliable craftsman; and after becoming a manager at Illinois Bell, he won great admiration, respect and loyalty from those whom he supervised. He was a member of the Bradley posts of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Knights of Columbus, the Telephone Pioneers, and the Holy Name Society. Active first in St. Patrick Parish of Kankakee and then St. Joseph Parish of Bradley, he co-founded a local group of the Christian Family Movement, served frequently as a lector at Mass, and taught Sunday classes for the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. An avid student of current affairs, he was endowed with an active and probing mind, read a great deal of non-fiction, and was blessed with a warm and sly sense

of humor. He will be missed deeply, but his example and his memory will be cherished by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife Norma of 58 years; his son, Dr. James Fitzgerald of Knoxville, Tenn. (wife, Dr. Palmira Brummett) and daughters, Leanne Koonce of Phoenix, Ariz. (husband, Dr. Frank Koonce), Maureen Ducat of Ashkum (husband, Leroy Ducat), Joan Mailloux of Bourbonnais (husband, David Mailloux), Angela Parilac of Lowell, Ind. (husband, Michael Parilac), Dianne Klimchuk of Bourbonnais (husband, John Klimchuk), and Sharon Clark of Bourbonnais (husband, Glenn Clark); 17 grandchildren; and sisters, Marylee Doerr of Windsor, Colo., Therese Riordan and Yvonne Elsberry of Boone, Iowa and Joan Snyder of Omaha, Neb. He was preceded in death by his parents and his elder brother, John of Boone, Iowa, brother, Donald of Fort Dodge, Iowa and brother, Leo of Boone, Iowa. He rests now in peace, but lives forever in spirit. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Friday at St. Joseph's in Bradley with burial at All Saints Cemetery in Bourbonnais. Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Thursday at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais. Offerings may be made for Masses or family wishes. In lieu of flowers, donations should be made to Mother Teresa's Home for Orphans (Missionaries of Charity, 1646 Park Road, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20010) or to Hospice of Kankakee Valley.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Album*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - December 07, 2010 at 02:29 PM



“ To Aunt Norma and my cousins - I remember the times we visited you and how warm and welcome I felt in your home. I½Uncle Jim is a legend in our family since mom loves him so much.

May the blessings of the Lord be upon you - the blessings of the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit.

Uncle Jim - go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Cindy##imported-begin##Jim & Cindy (Doerr) Sherlock##imported-end##

February 07, 2006 at 05:05 PM



“ In i½reading his obituary, We noted that James survived 30 missions over Germany in WWII. Few airmen survived that many. God must have regarded James as someone very special.##imported-begin##Ron & Jenny Rosencrans##imported-end##

February 07, 2006 at 05:05 PM



“ Our prayers are offered up for the family left behind. ĩ½Uncle Jim has earned his wings and we have another angel in heaven looking down on us. ĩ½###imported-begin###Mary Rubio###imported-end##

February 07, 2006 at 05:05 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you. God Bless your family###imported-begin###Mike Fitzgerald###imported-end##

February 07, 2006 at 05:05 PM



“ Jim will be missed very much. ĩ½We always enjoyed his visits to our office. ĩ½Our thoughts and prayers are with Norma and her family.

Dr. Guebert, Dr. Zale, Kathy, Kathleen, Amy, Jill, Jill, Heather, Cora, Lora, Marilyn, MaryAnne###imported-begin###Dr. Guebert's office###imported-end##

February 07, 2006 at 05:05 PM



“ Want to send my thoughts and prayers to your family.

Bart & Sarah (Ponton) Berns

(Daughter of Billie Ponton)###imported-begin###Bart and Sarah Berns###imported-end##

February 07, 2006 at 05:05 PM



“ NULL###imported-begin###Denise Fitzgerald###imported-end##

February 07, 2006 at 05:05 PM



“ *May the peace of Christ and his blessed mother Mary be with you at this time.##imported-begin##Yvonne and Dave Ashley##imported-end##*

February 07, 2006 at 05:05 PM



“ *WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY FOR YOUR LOSS##imported-begin##WALTER WALL##imported-end##*

February 07, 2006 at 05:05 PM



“ *Aline worked with Jim for years at the office. We will miss him.##imported-begin##Richard & Aline McHie##imported-end##*

February 07, 2006 at 05:05 PM



“ *Dear Aunt Norma and family,

I wish that we could have made it in to be with you all during this time. I am very sorry for Uncle Jim's passing, but am relieved to know that it was peaceful. He was a wonderful man, and I have many wonderful memories of times spent with the family. You are all in my prayers, as well as Uncle Jim. I am sure that he is excited to be with the rest of his brothers and his parents. We love you all and miss you!

Love

Mary, Rob, Joseph, and Mary Kate Orr##imported-begin##Mary and Robert Orr and family##imported-end##*

February 07, 2006 at 05:05 PM