



## Ralph "Red" Marcotte Jr.

August 21, 1931 - March 19, 2011

On Saturday (March 19, 2011), Bourbonnais lost Uncle Red, Santa Claus and a great friend. Red passed peacefully at home, surrounded by his loving wife and family. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the National MPS Society in support of research for Sanfilippo syndrome, of which his grandson Logan, is affected, Maternity BVM Church youth group, or to Hospice of Kankakee Valley. Red was born Aug. 21, 1931, in Bourbonnais, the son of Ralph Sr. and Rosella Mercier Marcotte Sr. He was the youngest son of eight children. One of his first jobs was at the National Sausage Company on South Schuyler Avenue in Kankakee, where he worked as a cleanup boy. Upon graduation from Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School in 1950, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. In January 1951, after graduating from Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Red was stationed at Piney Point, Md., which was a torpedo-testing site for the Navy. He then served aboard the USS Conecuh as a diver. On Jan. 5, 1952, he married Mary Amelia Braun at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Kankakee, who survives. In November 1955, after an honorable discharge from the Navy, he came home to open Tri-City Meats with brother-in-law, Francis "Foo" Chamness, where he worked as a butcher. Red also co-owned Tri-City Meats and Ice, along with Tri-City Locker. Along with his wife, Mary, they took over Hendrix BBQ and renamed it Uncle Reds BBQ and Catering. The Marcottes have lived in Bourbonnais since about the time the village was founded. Red's great-great-grandfather ran a horse and buggy service out of his home which

used to stand in the 400 block of Main Street. By the time his great-grandfather was able to assume the business, the automobile was making the horse and buggy obsolete. Red's father, Ralph, lived all his life in Bourbonnais and Red's parents raised their eight children in the village. Red lived most of his life in Bourbonnais and raised several of his younger children in what was the first schoolhouse in Bourbonnais, which still stands on Main Street. Several of Red's relatives lived along Main Street and served the village as well. The Marcotte's have been associated with Bourbonnais government since 1913, and so it was natural for Red to become a part of that long-standing tradition. Red served for 16 years as a trustee with the village of Bourbonnais and for six years as the code enforcement officer. During his time as a village trustee, he worked very hard to establish better parks for kids and also helped establish programs for our senior citizens. He was involved in the Bourbonnais park and fire districts, and in 1992 Sunset Park was renamed Marcotte Park in honor of Red, his family history and his dedication to the village of Bourbonnais. Red recently retired from the Kankakee County Board District 26 after 12 years as a county board member. Community service, not only through the village, but many other organizations, was a passion of Red's. He was involved with the Knights of Columbus as a 4th Degree Knight and helped start the Bourbonnais Chapter of the Knights of Columbus and was heavily involved in the Tootsie Roll drive. He was a lay minister and lector for Maternity BVM Catholic Church and was involved in numerous church functions, including the "garbage can dinners" at Maternity, and the annual Community Prayer Breakfast. The greatest joy and pleasure for Red was playing Santa Claus for more than a decade for the Fortin Villa Day Care, personal friends, Our Lady of Victory Nursing Home and various other organizations in the county. In 1998, former Bourbonnais Mayor Grover Brooks honored Red with the fifth annual Humanitarian Award. The Bourbonnais Friendship Festival and Bourbonnais Firemen's Fish Fry were annual favorites of Red's to participate in, and in 2000 Red and his wife, Mary,

received the honor as Mr. and Mrs. Bourbonnais, serving as the grand marshals of the festival's parade. He enjoyed the Chicago Cubs and Bears, John Wayne, Westerns, politics, playing cards with family, cooking — he was the best homemade pizza maker — spending time with his grandkids, and sharing that his favorite day was the second Tuesday of next week and when pigs fly. Red taught us all dedication, hard work, and how to live life to the fullest. Anytime Red was asked how he was, his response was “fat, sassy, and ornery!”, and he brought a smile to every room he was in. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Our greatest thanks and appreciation to Dr. Lauren Hana and her office staff, Drs. Abraham, D. Kim, Lang, Frye, Geetha, Jimenez, Sipahi, Jackson, Applewhite, McDonald, Koehler, Riverside Medical Center staff, Riverside Cancer Treatment Center staff, Hospice of Kankakee Valley and the many family and friends for their outstanding care and support through Red's final journey. God bless. Surviving are three daughters and one son-in-law, Denise Marcotte, of Bourbonnais, Michelle and Pat Baldwin, of Kankakee, and Annette Langellier, of Normal; six sons and five daughters-in-law, Phil, of San Diego, Calif., Jacques, of Arco, Idaho, Teresa, of Kankakee, Andre and Melissa, Pierre and Rita, all of Bradley, Joel and Linda, and Jon and Tammy, all of Bourbonnais; 20 grandchildren, Anna, Jacques (Dawn), Teresa II, Logan, Lucas, Nathan, Becca, Cody, Austin, Peyton and McKinley Marcotte, Peggy (Jeremy) Heck, Ame (Jon) Hamilton, Andy Baldwin, Paul (Danelle), Benjamin, Jon Paul, Samuel Langellier, Julia (Rusty) Galt and Lindsay Tackett; five great-grandchildren, Haley and Kelsey Torrez, Victoria and Lucas Langellier and Connor Heck; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Henrietta and Francis “Foo” Chamness, and Rose Longtin, all of Bourbonnais, and Pat and Ambrose Perrault, of Irwin; three brothers and two sisters-in-law, Kenneth and Esther Marcotte, of Bonfield, Roland and Eleanor Marcotte, of Dugger, Ind., and EJ “Mush” Marcotte, of Bourbonnais; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Ruth

Thornton, of Momence, Sam and Connie Braun, of Bradley, Rick and Jann Braun, of Springfield, Marge Bowsher, of Phoenix, Ariz., Aleta Braun and Bob Ebendorf, of Greenville, S.C.; and many nieces and nephews, too numerous to count. He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister and brother-in-law, Phoebe and Jim Ealy; infant brother, Jerry; sister-in-law, Yvonne Marcotte; brothers-in-law, Harold Longtin, Richard "Dick" Bowsher and Ronald Thornton; son-in-law, Jeff Langellier; niece, Karen Marcotte; and nephews, Dean Marcotte and Joey Thornton. Visitation will be from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Thursday at Maternity BVM Catholic Church, Bourbonnais. Father Richard Pighini will officiate. Burial will be in Maternity Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Maternity Cemetery

Corner of Canterbury Lane & William Latham  
Dr.  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAR 23.** 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
295 Main St., NW  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Funeral Mass

**MAR 24.** 11:00 AM (CT)

Maternity B.V.M. Catholic Church  
308 E. Marsile  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 933-8285  
<http://www.mbvmchurch.org/>

# Tribute Wall



“ Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Ralph "Red" Marcotte Jr.



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - March 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ I always enjoyed working with Red cooking chicken. He was always very hard working and always quick with a laugh. I am glad I knew Uncle Red.

Jeff Goodwin

Jeff Goodwin - March 28, 2011 at 03:57 PM

AA

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Red's friends and family at this difficult time. In teaching with his daughter, Annette, I have heard many stories that include life long lessons, as well as funny events too. I know he is greatly missed but will forever be remembered.



In prayer,  
Ashleigh Addicks

Ashleigh Addicks - March 28, 2011 at 08:59 AM

DJ

“ Very sorry to hear of Ralph's passing, I'm sure he was a great man. Please let me introduce myself. My name is Donald William Granger Jr. Just recently I discovered that Ralph is a distant cousin of mine. I'm a Great Nephew of Ralph's Uncle & Aunt, Eli Marcotte & Regina Granger of St. George, Illinois and an author of a family history website that contains our French Canadian families, both of the Marcotte's and my Granger families. If you wish to review your French Canadian heritage and family tree, please contact me at [dongranger1953@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dongranger1953@sbcglobal.net) My website is called "Charles Granger 1810" named after my Great, Great Grandfather Charles Granger who left d'henryville, Quebec with his family and settled in St. George, Illinois in 1847.

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**Donald William Granger Jr.** - March 25, 2011 at 11:44 PM



“ Uncle Red was a very special Uncle in many ways. I recall like it was yesterday a time that my parents were out of town and as usual we were sent to Aunt Mary and Uncle Red's house for the weekend. I had a date that night with a guy I dated in high school who was the biggest jerk there ever was. I came back crying because of how I was treated by this guy that night. Andre and Uncle Red were watching a John Wayne movie on late night TV ( this was his favorite thing to do). He told Andre to go to bed and then the lesson began. He first asked me if this guy had hurt me and I said "no". He said good because he would kick his \_\_\_ to hell and back. (I believed him)

He told me in a very stern and loud voice that I deserved better. He told me that boys like this used girls like me for no damn good reason ( and other words were said too). I cried and told Uncle Red that I loved this guy and he then told me what love was. He told me love was not being treated like I was being treated. He told me that I did not know what true love was because I was too young to know. He told me love was giving up for others to have what they needed. He told me true love was respect and not some piece of \_\_\_\_. He told me that when I found true love it would be hard very hard because you will fight for everything to keep it. You will not fight because you hate each other and you will work your \_\_\_ off for what is right, He said you will know true love when you have sweated your - - - off so you can come home to a home. He then told me he loved me and to go to bed and tell this jerk to get lost. He also told me I had better not get pregnant by some - - - hole because he would kick his \_\_\_ out of town. I believed Uncle Red would do that. I also knew that deep down inside he was right. I got rid of that jerk but I never forgot that talk. That night I learned that I deserved a man like my Uncle Red who would love me no matter what. Who would make mistakes and ask for forgiveness and it would be granted. I went to bed that night in the same room as Annette and Michelle and when I got into bed one of them asked me if I was OK. I said yes but I did not believe just how OK I was until I saw Uncle Red for the last time. The next morning Aunt Mary asked who got a talkin to last night and I said it was me. She said "did you learn

*something?" I said yes but at the time I think I said that because I had better say yes. I am now 52 years old and I can say YES I did learn a lesson from my Uncle Red that night. I have been married for 27 1/2 years to a wonderful guy who came with me to say goodbye to Uncle Red and held his hand while I cried on Aunt Mary's shoulder. Thank you Uncle Red for a lesson never forgotten. I love you like you were my own dad.  
Love you niece,  
Amily (Amy) Chamness Lawler*

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**Eymarde Lawler** - March 25, 2011 at 09:51 PM

KT

“ Thoughts & prayers are with you and your Family..... <3



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**kim thompson** - March 25, 2011 at 08:58 PM

JD

“ Jena DeBouck lit a candle in memory of Ralph "Red" Marcotte Jr.



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**Jena DeBouck** - March 25, 2011 at 01:56 AM

MB

“ *What an honor and privilege to have known him. He meant so much to this huge extended family the Baldwins became a part of when my brother Pat married Michele Marcotte (good move, Pat!) What a life he led and what a void he leaves. Love to all the Marcottes on this sad day.*

*Mary Baldwin Sherman Oaks Ca*

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**Mary Baldwin** - March 24, 2011 at 12:28 PM

SD

“ *Red was a dear friend who always made me laugh and feel good no matter what state I was in. I will miss him.*

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**Sherrie Duncan** - March 23, 2011 at 09:48 PM

PK

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Paul, Debra, Andrew, and David Koch*

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**Paul and Debra Koch** - March 23, 2011 at 07:35 PM

SH

“ *My condolences and love to the entire Marcotte Family. Red was an awesome man and will be greatly missed. Susie(Koehler Chiropractic)*

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**Susan Hill** - March 23, 2011 at 04:03 PM

SK

“ I remember being at the Marcotte home often many years ago and feeling like family. Mr. Marcotte was a funny guy and I'm sure you, his family are missing him very much. Thanks for the memories and God bless you Annette and family. Sue (Luehrs) Koos from Normal Il.

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**Sue (Luehrs) Koos** - March 23, 2011 at 11:51 AM

DB

“ Red gave me my first real job at Tri-City Meats. He gave me alot of direction when I needed it at a young age. I remember Red taking me to picnics at the Maternity church, and bringing me over to his home on Main street to swim, and barbque with his family. Childhood memories, and lots of life lessons learned. He will be missed greatly.

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**Donald Barber** - March 23, 2011 at 11:23 AM

DS

“ My favorite memory of my Uncle Red is when my husband, daughter Colleen and myself where staying at the Palmer House in Chicago. Uncle Red, Aunt Mary and Grams were staying there as well. Uncle Red showed Colleen, who was only 2 years old, how to play in a revolving door located in the lobby. They both were laughing and running through and around the moving door. A priceless memory for me. I am truly blessed to have known Uncle Red, and to be part of his extended family. He and my father, Dick Bowsher, are back to laughing, joking and enjoying each others company once . They were two peas in a pod when together. Love to you Aunt Mary and all of my cousins. May God be with during this hard time. Debbie "Bowsher" Svancara, Tucson, Arizona.

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**Debbie Bowsher Svancara** - March 22, 2011 at 11:38 PM

KV

“Wow, what an amazing person. After reading the tribute, I would have to say what a true hero and role model he was in this world. I am glad he was in my sister's life and she married into such a wonderful family! May God be with all the Marcotte's during this difficult time.

Love,  
Kathy (Linda's sister)

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**Katherine Varner** - March 22, 2011 at 10:26 PM

JK

“Jeanne Kupec-Chick lit a candle in memory of Ralph "Red" Marcotte Jr.



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**Jeanne Kupec-Chick** - March 22, 2011 at 09:33 PM



“ *Dear Aunt Mary and Cousins:*

*We are so very sorry about Uncle Red's loss in his battle with cancer. It is a great loss for all who know him, however, perhaps we can take comfort in the fact that our loss is Heaven's gain. I have so many childhood memories of him that I will cherish until the day I meet up with him in the skies of glory. I am sure that he is now playing with my little sister, Karen. Thank you so much for mentioning her name in the obit.*

*My heart is with you at this time as are my prayers to God to comfort and strengthen you during this time of sorrow.*

*I wish I could be there to share in the celebration of his life and hear all the funny stories that are sure to be told. I have a few of my own.*

*All our love,*

*Allen and Mary Lynn (Marcotte) Fournier*

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**Mary (Marcotte) Fournier** - March 22, 2011 at 08:06 PM

SS

*To Andre, Melissa, and the entire Marcotte family:*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. Your gift of dedication to our school is clearly something that was passed on to you by your father/ father-in-law. We are so appreciative of everything you do for us and the gift of putting others first is one you will take with you forever.*

*With Love & Prayers,  
The Students and Staff of St. Joseph School*

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**St. Joseph School** - March 23, 2011 at 02:17 PM

DG

“ Dear Mary and the extensive Marcotte family, Our deepest sympathy on the loss of your husband and father "Red". Thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time. Sincerely, Dan and Val Guenette

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**Dan and Val Guenette** - March 22, 2011 at 07:38 PM

ME

“ Dear Mary & Family  
John and I were so privileged to be included in your circle of friends we will keep all of you in our thoughts and prayers. Red was a special gift to you and all of us in the NFP community. His commitment to Family and Church was an inspiration to all the younger teachers. We will love him always.  
John & Mary Therese Egizio



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**Mary Therese Egizio** - March 22, 2011 at 07:16 PM

CA

“ Dear Mary and family ~  
We are so sorry to hear of your loss. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Loving memories forever live in the heart.  
Barb Arndt and Family

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**Christine Arndt** - March 22, 2011 at 03:44 PM

CA

“ Christine Arndt lit a candle in memory of  
Ralph "Red" Marcotte Jr.



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**Christine Arndt** - March 22, 2011 at 03:39 PM

SS

“ *Your obituary failed to mention what a true Democrat you were!. Don and I will remember you for that and your kindness to all. I Don and Shirley St. Germaine*

Shirley A. St.Germaine - March 22, 2011 at 12:35 PM

DA

“ *So very sorry to hear about your loss. Red was a very very good husband and father. I'll always remember how much I respected Red for all he's done for our village. May God be with all of you as you grieve. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*With love and sympathy,  
Doug Altmyer*

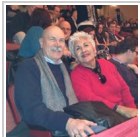
Douglas Altmyer - March 22, 2011 at 12:08 PM



“ *Juliette McMahan lit a candle in memory of Ralph "Red" Marcotte Jr.*



Juliette McMahan - March 22, 2011 at 11:53 AM



“ *Our community has lost a wonderful man! May God bless the family with peace and may your memories of a caring man bring smiles. I so enjoyed working with him on the Christmas Day Inc. Committee. Thank you Red for all you gave!*



Mary Quiroz Thomson - March 22, 2011 at 10:41 AM

AC

*Red.... Tri-City Meats and the Marcotte family were so kind to me and my family. I will miss him! God bless!*

*Allen Cooke*

Allen Cooke - March 22, 2011 at 06:59 PM

SH

“ *Our community has lost a wonderful man! May God bless the family with peace and may your memories of a caring man bring smiles. I so enjoyed working with him on the Christmas Day Inc. Committee. Thank you Red for all you gave!*



shelley - March 22, 2011 at 10:38 AM

ML

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.*

Mike and Jean Lareau - March 22, 2011 at 10:18 AM

NA

“ *Our sympathy, thoughts and prayers to you Mary and your family.*

Nick and Shirley Africano - March 22, 2011 at 09:25 AM

JH

“ *Mary and family,  
So sorry to read about Red's passing. You are in my thoughts and prayers. He will truly be missed by all.  
Janice Lareau Honnold*

Janice Honnold - March 21, 2011 at 07:55 PM

TS

“ *My sincere condolence, to Denise and her entire Family.*

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**Ted Schott** - March 21, 2011 at 07:02 PM

JS

“ *Red was truly a man for all seasons...generous, kind, the life of a party, always willing to lend a helping hand, faithful, loving..the list goes on and on. Deepest condolences to all*



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**Joseph and Patricia Sander** - March 21, 2011 at 04:07 PM

CP

“ *Michelle and Annette, I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of your father. I know this has to be so hard on you but just knowing he's with God and pain free must be some feeling of peace for you. You have my deepest sympathy.*



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**Cathy (Sanders) Prusinski** - March 21, 2011 at 01:24 PM

LP

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Marcotte family. Red and my dad used to be such good friends, and now I know they are once again...*

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**Laurie Goselin Pelletier** - March 21, 2011 at 12:19 PM

DB

“ *Uncle Red, The summer that I spent with your family reflects some of my fondest childhood memories. Your love and zest for life was infectious. You will always have a place in my heart. Love you, Dee Dee*



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**Denise (Mercier) Baker** - March 21, 2011 at 06:45 AM

JL

“ *I was privileged to meet Red in 1975 and we started our political career together. I knew then that Red was a devoted family man, devoted to his church and community. Red never knew a stranger. He was pivotal in making Bourbonnais a community we can all be proud of. You will be missed my friend.*

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**John Latham** - March 19, 2011 at 04:11 PM

CS

*Dear Mary and family,  
We are so sorry for your loss. We will always remember Red as the always smiling, always giving, always sweet family man that he was. You and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers in the coming days.*

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**Cheryl Segneri** - March 21, 2011 at 11:36 AM

CB

*Annette and your family have my thoughts and prayers in your father's passing. take care.*

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**Connie Bass** - March 22, 2011 at 07:32 AM

JC

*To the entire Marcotte family. It has been a pure honor to know you. "Red" and Mary have raised a beautiful, caring, loving family. It has been one of my blessings to see this first hand. I know Mr. Marcotte is smiling down, with pride and love, on each and everyone of his children, grand-children, great-grandchildren and especially his beloved wife. May God continue to protect and comfort you. Thank you for being an example of what a family truly is and thank you "Red" for setting the example of love for them. God speed.*

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**Jeanne Chick** - March 22, 2011 at 08:51 AM

NY

*Dear Mary,I am so very sorry to hear about Red,my heart goes to you and family...Will be praying for you.Naydu*

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**naydu a. yaniz** - March 23, 2011 at 09:15 AM