

Jim Kalal, 72

March 17, 1935 - Jan. 27, 2008

YUMA, AZ — Francis James (Jim) Kalal, 72, formerly of Harlan, IA passed away on Sunday, January 27, 2008 in Yuma, AZ. He was born in Beatrice, NE March 17, 1935 to Joseph Kalal and Helen (Parkas) Kalal. He graduated from Crete High School in Nebraska in 1953. Jim attended the University of Nebraska Lincoln 1953-54. In 1954 he interrupted his studies to join the United States Army.

In 1956 Jim married Catherine Ahlgrim in Lincoln, NE and they resided in Niagara Falls, NY where he was stationed. Upon his honorable discharge from the Army they moved back to Lincoln where he worked for Lincoln Electric System and they began their family. In 1973 the family moved to Harlan, IA where he managed the Harlan Municipal Utilities until his retirement in 1991. Throughout his life Jim joined and participated in many civic and community organizations including; President Lincoln JayCees, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, Vice President Lincoln Engineers Club, Chairman Lincoln Industrial Development Committee, Junior Wrestling coach, Elks Club, Kiwanis, League of Nebraska Municipalities, and American Public Power Association. He was a two term Commander of the Harlan American Legion, Iowa Municipal Utility Board member, Chairman Shelby County Credit Union, Harlan Chamber of Commerce. Jim served on the United Way Board of Directors in both Lincoln and Harlan. He was Chairman of the Shelby County Republican Party, Shelby County Selective Service Board, secretary of the Harlan Cemetery Board, Board of Director Iowa State Rural Electric Co-op, Yuma American Legion Post 19, Vice President Desert Lakes Homeowners Association and MCAS Knights of Columbus. In 2003 Jim and his wife Cathy moved to Yuma permanently. They joined St. Michael the Archangel Parish at the Marine Corp Air Station Yuma where Jim felt at home with his love of God and the United States military.



Jim was preceded in death by his parents Joseph and Helen Kalal and his sister Charmaine Siedschlag. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Cathy; daughter Karen (Randy) Bossé of Cary, NC; sons Joseph (Sally) of Elkhorn, NE; Daniel (Jill) of Puerto Rico; John (Margaret) of Leawood, KS; sister Grace (Don) Moore of Rochester, MN; 15 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A wake and rosary service was held at Kamman Mortuary in Yuma, AZ on January 30, 2008 and Funeral Mass was held January 31, 2008 at the Marine Corp Air Station chapel in Yuma. There will be an internment ceremony at the Harlan Cemetery on July 26, 2008.

**Kamman
Mortuary
Yuma, AZ**