

Leonard Rauterkus, 78

June 25, 1924 - Nov. 9, 2002

CLEAR LAKE, WI – Leonard Aloysius Rauterkus was born June 25, 1924, in Westphalia. He grew up in Westphalia graduating from high school there. He farmed in Iowa for several years and was a volunteer fireman while in Iowa.

June 26, 1954, he married Bernice Blum at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. He was a certified welder by trade for 44 years. Their family moved to Wisconsin and he worked as a welder at Friday Canning in New Richmond, WI, for 27 years retiring in 1989. He died Nov. 9, 2002, at Maple Manor in New Richmond, WI.

Survivors include his wife, Bernice, of Clear Lake, WI; sons, Leo of Clear Lake, WI; Dale of Amery, WI; Ralph (Mary) of Red Wing, MN and Don (Linda) of Onalaska, WI; daughters, Teresa (Joe) Znidarsich of LaCrosse, WI; Alice (Gerry) Ditlefsen of Amery, WI; brother, Hubert Rauterkus of Cecil, WI; sister-in-law, Rita Rauterkus from San Angelo, TX; 11 grandchildren, Dan (Sarah) LaVenture; Briana LaVenture; Joe, Rebecca, Jake and Tim Znidarsich; Andy and Julie Rauterkus; Susan, Doug and Katie Rauterkus; and one great grandchild, Christian.

Funeral services were held Nov. 14, 2002, at St. John's Catholic Church in Clear Lake. Burial of cremains was at the Clear Lake Cemetery. Casket bearers were his grandsons, Joe Znidarsich, Dan LaVenture, Doug Rauterkus, Andy Rauterkus, Jake Znidarsich and Tim Znidarsich. Williamson Funeral Home in Amery, WI, in charge of arrangements.