

NO PHOTO Koretke, Robert

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Robert T. Koretke a lifelong resident of Naperville Funeral services for Robert T. Koretke will begin at 9 a.m. Friday, at the Beidelman-Kunsch Funeral Home, 516 S. Washington St., Naperville, then continue with a Mass of Christian Burial at 9:30 a.m. at Sts. Peter & Paul Church, 36 N. Ellsworth, Naperville. Interment will be in Sts. Peter & Paul Cemetery. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. today, at the funeral home.

Born May 29, 1914, he died Tuesday, April 12, 2004, at his home. Mr. Koretke lived and loved life to its fullest. He was especially proud of the years of service he spent with the 96th Infantry Division (The Deadeyes), serving in the Pacific Islands, including the Philippines and Okinawa during World War II.

An electrician and mechanic by trade, upon returning to the states after the war, he joined the family business with his father-in-law, Charles Senft, running the Skelly service station at the corner of Ogden and Washington until Feb. 1, 1970. He enjoyed many years of retirement traveling, taking courses at the College of DuPage, painting pictures, building his own dark room to develop and restore his photographs, playing the organ, designing and then creating unique airbrushed greeting cards for his family and continued his favorite hobby of reading. In his later years, he continued to be an avid reader, enjoyed baking, working in his yard, volunteering at St. Patrick's Residence, helping with outings and leading the rosary on Tuesday evenings for the residents. He also led the rosary at Sunrise Assisted Living on Friday afternoons. One can see why he used to say "there just aren't enough hours in the day."

He is survived by his daughters, Jeanette (George III) Krass of Naperville, Rita Koretke of Richmond, Va., and Peggy (Charles) Zadak of Vancouver, Wash.; grandchildren, George VI and Craig Krass, Jason, Jennifer and Adam Vergne, and Robert and Natalie Zadak; great-grandchildren, Robbie, Cameron, Kylie, Courtney and Alyssa Krass; his brother, Richard; sisters Joan (Elmer) Brummel and Florence (Clarence) Jungels, all lifetime residents of Naperville; and numerous nieces and nephews. Last September, he was preceded in death by the love of his life for more than 60 years, his wife Margaret (nee Senft); his mother, Anna and father, Charles Koretke, the well-known photographer whose photographs are still on display at Naperville Settlement, North Central College and Sts. Peter & Paul School, and grace the pages of many Naperville historical books and papers; his brothers, James, John and Fr. Charles Koretke; his sisters, Sr. Marie Koretke [Ruth], Nancy (Edward) Hinterlong, Rose (Ernest) Hein and Mary (Frank) Cannon.

The family wishes to give a special thank you to St. Thomas Hospice staff, especially Helega Matthews and Dr. Robert Rozner. For information, (630)355-0264 or www.beidelmankunschfh.com.