

Gornowicz, Robert J.

Mr. Robert J. Gornowicz, 55, of rural Snover, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend, passed away Saturday morning, September 27, 2003, at Northwood Meadows in Cass City following a 16-month bout of brain cancer. Bob was born on September 29, 1947, in Austin Township in Sanilac County, where he resided all his life. He was the son of Julia (Pionk) Gornowicz and the late Henry Gornowicz. He married the former Audrey Hull on November 13, 1970, at St. John Catholic Church of Ubly. They celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary in 2002. Bob was a farmer and a partner with the Copeland-Gornowicz Insurance Agency in Cass City for 29 years. Bob and his wife, Audrey, with his sister, Barbara Keller and her husband, Carl, owned the G & K Lounge in Argyle from 1996-2002. Bob served in the U.S. Army in the Vietnam War from 1966 to 1969, being wounded and receiving the Purple Heart. He received other meritorious awards and medals, including combat Infantry Badge, two Sharpshooter Medals, Marksmanship Badge, Aviation Badge, National Defense Service Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal. Bob was a member of the Sanilac County Veterans Council and was instrumental in bringing the Moving Wall monument to Sandusky five years ago. He was a member of the Sandusky VFW Post No. 2945, the American Legion of Caro, and the Region 7 ABATE Motorcycle Club. Bob was a former member of the Ubly Jaycees Club and an active member of the Ubly Fox Hunters Club. He was awarded an honorary farmers degree of the Ubly Community Schools and served on various fund-raising projects for the FFA Chapter. Bob was a member of St. Ignatius Church of Frieburg and a former member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Ubly. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, golf, playing euchre, and traveling to his family's residence in Florida. He especially enjoyed his two grandchildren. Bob is survived by his wife, Audrey; one son, Robert Gornowicz, Jr. and his fiancée, Angela Dorey, of Grand Rapids; one daughter, Shelley Briolat and her husband, Jeff, of Ubly; his mother, Julia Gornowicz, of Sandusky; two grandchildren, Mitchell and Danielle Briolat; two brothers, Harold Gornowicz and his wife, Karen, of Snover, Leo Gornowicz and his wife, Susan, of Mobile, Alabama; three sisters, Barbara Keller and her husband, Carl, of Snover, Judy Bonnin and her husband, Ken, of Clinton Township, Sandra Augustyniak and her husband, George, of Pinconning; his mother-in-law, Vivian Acheson, of Peck; two aunts, Veronica Pionk, of Bad Axe and Eleanor Partaka, of Palms; one uncle, Roman Pionk and his wife, Audrey, of Ruth; numerous nieces and nephews, especially David Keller; many cousins and close friends, Joseph Doerr, of Argyle, Ronald Grifka, of Ubly, Frank Keller, of Cass City, Marion Rutkowski, Jim Spade, and Marc Tenbusch, all of Ubly. Bob was preceded in death by his father, Henry, in 1986; a brother, Virgil, in 1952; and a nephew, Paul Keller, in 1981. He touched the hearts of so many people with his warm hospitality and his eagerness to enjoy each day to the utmost. Funeral mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 30, 2003, at St. Ignatius Catholic Church of Frieburg. The Rev. T.J. Fleming, pastor, will officiate. Burial will be in the church cemetery with full military honors by the Sandusky VFW Post No. 2945 and other military organizations. A veteran's memorial service will take place at 7 p.m. on Monday at the Zinger-Smigielski Funeral Home of Ubly. Visitation will be from 6 to 9:30 p.m. today, from 1:30 to 9:30 p.m. Monday and from 8 to 9 a.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Memorials requested to the Cleveland Taussig Cancer Center in Cleveland, Ohio.