

**Ruth, Earl J.**

Mr. Earl Joseph Ruth, 75, of Mio died Thursday, March 19, 2009 at his home in Mio.

He was born in Kinde to the late Francis and Margaret (Heron) Ruth on Jan. 29, 1934.

Earl owned and operated the Mio Saloon and J & E Excavating Co. He enjoyed the company of his family and many friends and had attended the St. Mary Catholic Church.

Earl is survived by his wife Jacklyn C. (Cady) Ruth of Caseville; two daughters, Lori (Robert) Watkins of Kalkaska, Susan (Michael) Philbrick of St. Clair Shores; a son, Terrence (Carol) Ruth of Mio; eight grandchildren: Shannon Phillips, Jessica Phillips, TJ Ruth, Jennifer Ruth, Riordan, Mayme, Aidan and Moira Philbrick; two step grandchildren, Nick Goodrow and Lynn Cournyer; four sisters, Ilene (Dale) Johnson of Bad Axe, Helen Carpenter of Pinnebog, Mary Bivens of Bessimer, Joann (Chuck) Wisenbaugh of Pigeon; three brothers, Bernard (JoAnne) Ruth of Lapeer, Don (Theresa) Ruth of Hemlock, Lee (Dee) Ruth of Livonia.

He is also survived by his companion, Donna Wood; and her children, Tom Center, Josh Kellerman and Darren Wood.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Francis, Matt, and Carl Ruth and one grandchild, Dustin Phillips.

No public visitation is planned. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Mary Catholic Church, Mio at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 with Father Raymond Cotter officiating. In accordance with his wishes cremation will take place following the Mass.

Donations may be made to the Special Olympics of Michigan or Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant.

Arrangements handled by Lashley Funeral Home, Inc., Mio.