

**Partaka, Clarence J.**

Mr. Clarence J. Partaka, 75, of Ubly, passed away Thursday, May 14, 2009 at Covenant Cooper Hospital in Saginaw.

He was born Sept. 19, 1933 in Tyre to the late Peter & Martha (Nicholas) Partaka.

He married Shirley Abel on June 29, 1974 in Bad Axe.

Clarence was an eighth-grade graduate of the Freiburg School. He served in the U.S. Army for several years. He returned to Michigan and was employed as a driver at Dewitt Products in Detroit. He then spent 20 years as a truck driver for Branch Motor Express. He eventually worked for Tower Automotive in Elkton, from where he retired in the 1990's. He was a parishioner at St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Freiburg. He enjoyed deer hunting and spent his retirement doing what he loved, playing cards, especially euchre. He truly enjoyed spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley, of Ubly; his children, Patsy Wastell and her husband, David, of London, England, Michael Partaka and his wife, Dawn, of Ubly, Tresa Bezemek and her husband, Joe, of Brown City, Gail Nash and Randy Lambson of Ubly, William C. Partaka of Wayne. He was a very proud grandfather of 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He also had a huge extended family of children he and Shirley helped raise over the years.

Clarence was preceded in death by one son, Dennis; five brothers and six sisters.

Funeral Mass will be 11 a.m. Monday, May 18, 2009 at St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Freiburg.

The Rev. Joseph Griffin, pastor, will officiate. Burial will be in the church cemetery with military honors provided by the Ubly TVO.

Visitation will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, from 1 to 9 p.m. Sunday and from 9 to 10 a.m.

Monday at the Zinger-Smigielski Funeral Home in Ubly. There will be a parish vigil service at 8 p.m. Sunday.