

VERNON LEE KRETZSCHMER

1932 - 1997

Vern Kretzschmer, 65 of Caseville, passed away Saturday, June 28 at his home following a long bout with cancer.

He was born March 22, 1932 in Bay City to Edith (Hoppe) Kretzschmer and the late Walter W. Kretzschmer.

He married June E. Wenz on June 1, 1959 in Ferndale. The couple made their home in Winsor Township where they farmed for over 40 years. They also owned and operated Kretzschmer Home Center in Pigeon for 22 years.

Mr. Kretzschmer was very active in agriculture, politics and his community. He was the Democratic Agricultural Committee Chairman for 12 years. He served as Elkton - Pigeon - Bay Port School Board President for four years. He also served on the boards of Scheurer Hospital and People's Oil & Gas. He was a Past President of the Huron County and Michigan Bean Growers Associations.

He received appointments by President Carter to the Michigan Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service as State Committee Chairman from 1977 to 1981, by Gov. Blanchard to the Michigan Agricultural Commission from 1987 to 1991 and by President Clinton to the Consolidated Farm Service Agency as State Committee Chairman from 1992 to the present.

He was also active in Salem United Methodist Church, Farm Bureau, Pigeon Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Democratic Party 500 Club, Michigan Democratic Party's President's Club, Northeast Agriculture Association, National Farmers Union and the Pigeon Lions Club.

Surviving are his wife, June; son Dave (Tammy) of Charlotte; daughters Cathy (Matt) Riesterer and Julie Kretzschmer, all of Brighton; four grandchildren, Nathan, Nicole, Elizabeth and Emily; his mother, Edith of Pigeon; and brother Clark (Gloria) of Mesa, AZ.

Due to renovations at the Caseville location of Champagne Funeral Chapel, visitation and services will be at St. Roch Catholic Church, Caseville. Friends may call at St. Roch Church on Tuesday from 2 to 9 p.m.

Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 2 with Pigeon River Mennonite Pastor Rev. Tom Beachy officiating. Burial will be in the Caseville Township Cemetery.

Memorials may be given to Marlette Hospice, Salem United Methodist Church or Pigeon River Mennonite Church.

