

Walter Tatar



RANTOUL – Walter Jacob Tatar Sr., 100, of Rantoul passed away on Monday (July 21, 2014) at the Freedom House VA Facility, Danville.

He was born Jan. 1, 1914, in Wadowice, Poland, a son of Walter and Katherine (Kolek) Tatar. He married Dolores Trimble on Aug. 14, 1945, in Danville. She preceded him in death on May 28, 1999.

He is survived by two sons, Walter (Judy) Tatar Jr. of Rantoul and Tom Cooper of Mattoon; four daughters, Ann (Virgil) Langlely of Perryville, Ind., Janet (Ron) Doan of Abilene, Texas, Rose (Dennis) McGiles of Champaign and Katherine (John) Carey of Colbert, Okla.; two brothers, Frank Tatar and Julie Tatar, both of Buffalo, N.Y.; and two sisters, Helen Estep and Jeanie (Jim) Raber, both of Buffalo, N.Y.

Also surviving are 21 grandchildren, 44 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren and a multitude of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by six brothers; five sisters; three sons, George, Michael and Raymond; and a great-grandson, Billie Blackford.

Walter was a World War II disabled veteran, serving in the Army Air Corps in Debach, England. He and his wife owned and operated the Tatar Shoe Repair on Chanute Air Force Base and the D&W RV Park, Champaign.

He was a lifelong member of St. Malachy Catholic Church. He was also a member of Disabled Veterans, Knights of Columbus, VFW, American Legion and Circle R Square Dance Club. Most of all, he was an inventor and a great tomato grower. He took a horticulture class at Parkland College when he was 94, and he received a U.S. patent at age 89 for a breakaway basketball hoop.

A funeral service will held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at St. Malachy Catholic Church, Rantoul. The Rev. Michael Menner will officiate. Burial will follow in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Thursday, beginning with a rosary, at Lux Memorial Chapel, 1551 E. Grove St., Rantoul.

Memorials may be made to the Henry J. Smith Memorial/Tatar family tuition assistance fund.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to all the workers at the Freedom House for all their service and care.