

**Thiel, Gerald Wendall "Jerry"**

Saginaw, Michigan



Passed away on Tuesday, August 22, 2017 at the age of 89 years. Jerry was born September 15, 1927, in Lansing, MI the son of the late Ernest Eric Thiel (1906-1982) and Edna Lucille Surine (1909-1998).

Jerry proudly served in the U.S. Navy WW II as Fireman First Class on the *USS Cook Inlet*, from June 1945 until July 1946. Jerry was onboard after the main invasion of Iwo Jima in March 1945 and remained on duty at Iwo Jima until hostilities with Japan ended on 15 August 1945. *Cook Inlet* received a battle star WWII service.

In September of 1948, he married his first beloved, Betty Jean Thomson; Betty Jean passed away in December, 1993. He retired from Consumers Energy in September of 1987 after 35 years of service. In July of 1995 he married his second beloved, Nancy J. Hodgson. He enjoyed family, friends, collecting antiques, and all his pets; each dog and cat was a favorite.

Surviving are his wife, Nancy Thiel; step-children Matthew (Liz) Hodgson and Sarah (Eric) Van Eenenaam; sister Caroline Morgan; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Paul and Barb Linsenman; grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and great nieces.

Funeral services will take place at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, August 31, 2017, at W.L. Case & Company 4480 Mackinaw Rd. with cremation to follow. Military honors to be rendered by VFW Post 1859 of Carrollton. Friends may visit with the family from 11:00 a.m. until the time of service.

Jerry Thiel was an Okemos Veteran Graduate, class of 1947.

1947 Okemos Tomahawk Yearbook, Senior Class of 1947 Pictures page

V E T E R A N G R A D U A T E S

The following veterans, who for various reasons had not completed their high school work before entering the armed service, have now satisfied all requirements for graduation. They shall be considered members of the class of 1947 and will receive their high school diplomas with the other members of the class at Commencement time.

Joseph Griffith	United States Marines	1943-46
Russell R. Leach	United States Marines	1941-46
William Leverett	United States Army	1942-46
Clarence Robinson	United States Marines	1943-46
Ronald Sweetland	United States Navy	1943-46
Gerald Thiel	United States Navy	1945-46
Martin Wunkel	United States Navy	1945-46