



## Joseph "Joe" Kurkowski, Sr.

August 6, 1921 - January 17, 2013

Joe Max Kurkowski , 91, entered into rest January 17, 2013 in Moses Lake. He was born August 6, 1921 in Watauga, South Dakota. He was the fifth of 9 brothers and 3 sisters. As a young man he went to school on horseback with some of his siblings and worked on the farm. In 1936 the family moved to Minnesota to farm and raise cattle.

Joe joined the Army Air Corps in August of 1941, went to basic training in Fort Benning, Georgia then on to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri where he became number 1 in his class in receiving and sending code. This was fine until he was told he was not going to be a pilot, he was needed as a radio man. He did get to fly in several missions while stationed in Burma. He was discharged in December of 1945 and returned home to Minnesota.

He stayed in Minnesota until 1947 when he and a couple of friends and a brother decided to go to Alaska. Coming through Washington they stopped in Lind to get harvest jobs to help fund their adventure. They all got jobs and this is where Joe met Betty who was a cook for the harvest crew. A short time later in 1948 they were married.

Joe retired at the age of 62. His dream of going to Alaska finally came true, he went to Bristol Bay to fish for his son- in- laws fish processing camp. He did this for a couple summers. In 1988 Betty joined him to cook, she never lost her touch. Joe and Betty enjoyed trips to Minnesota, California, and Arizona to visit family. After that they pretty much settled in at home in Warden.

Joe couldn't be idle so he started repairing small engines out of his garage;

there wasn't anything he couldn't make run again. He enjoyed doing this and raising a huge garden until arthritis got the best of his hands and he couldn't use his tools anymore. He was a man of integrity and good humor and always ready to help someone. He loved his family and enjoyed telling stories about his life experiences.

He is survived by his wife Betty, Moses Lake, son Joe Kurkowski Jr. (Patti), Warden, daughter Roxanne Clark (Mark), Warden, daughter Ruth Dasch, Warden, 3 grandsons, Kerry Kurkowski, Woodland, WA, Eric Clark, Moses Lake, Travis Clark, Moses Lake, 2 granddaughters, Stacie White, Spokane, WA, and Angela Clausen, Hercules CA., 5 great grand children Clayton Clark, Madisyn Clark, Brock Clark, Brooklyn Clark, and Kylie White. Joe was preceded in death by his daughter Teresa, son-in-law Robert, 8 brothers and 2 sisters.

Services will be held at the Queen of all Saints Catholic Church in Warden. Rosary at 10:00 a.m. and Mass at 10:30 a.m., Friday, January 25th. A graveside service will be held after at Sunset Memorial Gardens Warden, WA. A luncheon will follow at the church hall.

# Previous Events

## Service

JAN 25. 10:00 AM (PT)

Queen of All Saints Catholic Church (Rosary)  
1100 S. Pine  
Warden, WA

## Service

JAN 25. 10:30 AM (PT)

Queen of All Saints Catholic Church(Mass)  
1100 S. Pine Street  
Warden, WA

# Tribute Wall



“ Betty, Joe Jr., Roxanne, Ruth, and families, My deepest and most heartfelt sympathy goes out to each and everyone of you. I have many fond memories of our lives as we were growing up in OUR little town. I am honored to have been there today with all of you for the celebration of Joe's life. I pray for God's guidance to help you through this difficult time. Audrey(Gardner)Entzel##imported-begin##Audrey (Gardner) Entzel##imported-end##

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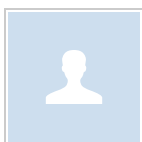
January 26, 2013 at 12:07 AM



“ I read your father's obituary and it brought me to tears. What a wonderful full life he lead. It also made me cry because another individual that was part of my life growing up has passed. I send my sincerest regrets at your father's passing. My love to all of you.##imported-begin##Wendy Gilbert##imported-end##

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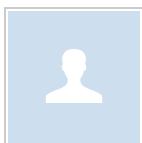
January 25, 2013 at 09:45 PM



“ Ruth, My thoughts are with you through this difficult time. May the cherished memories help ease your pain! If you need anything please let me know!!##imported-begin##Terry Moore##imported-end##

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January 25, 2013 at 05:28 PM



“ Our sincere sympathies. Thinking of you.##imported-begin##Ed & Paula Stout##imported-end##

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January 24, 2013 at 08:59 AM



“ I will remember Joe in my prayers.

*I am very sorry for your loss*

*Rene##imported-begin##Rene R Lapierre##imported-end##*

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January 23, 2013 at 06:35 PM



“ Betty and family:

*So sorry to hear of Joe passing away. We'll miss his smile and service he did at church. Our deepest condolences to all family. We truly lost a great man.*

*Roldan & Virginia Capetillo  
Warden, WA##imported-begin##Roldan & Virginia  
Capetillo##imported-end##*

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January 23, 2013 at 04:08 PM



“ we are so sorry to hear of Joe;s passing. we know how much he will be missed.we met Joe in 1962, at Country Gardens, when we moved here. our thoughts are with you all .##imported-begin##Darwin and Linda Beehner##imported-end##

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January 23, 2013 at 12:08 PM



“ Ruth: I am so sorry to see that your father has passed away. May you know that my love and prayers are being sent your way. Take care and let me know if you need anything.##imported-begin##Heidi Glaesemann##imported-end##

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January 23, 2013 at 12:04 PM



“ To the kurkowskifamily...Those we love remain with us for love itself lives on, and cherished memories never fade because a loved one's gone. Those we love can never be more that a thought apart. For as long there is a memory, they'll live on in our hearts.  
My thoughts are with you and your family at this time of sorrow.##imported-begin##John Truett##imported-end##

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January 23, 2013 at 09:16 AM



“ Joe Sr. will be greatly missed. I am sure he left this earth very proud of the legacy he has left of a wonderful and caring family. We wish them peace and healing during this time of loss.

Jim and Susan Kelly##imported-begin##Jim & Susan  
Kelly##imported-end##

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January 22, 2013 at 10:27 AM



“ Ruth, I am so sorry for the loss of your dad, take comfort in all the wonderful memories you have with him##imported-begin##Donna  
Anderson##imported-end##

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January 20, 2013 at 02:42 PM