

Anthony J. Nilges

December 9, 1926 - December 23, 2021

Anthony “Tony” Joseph Nilges, 95, passed away peacefully at Bright Oaks of Aurora on December 23, 2021. He was a lifelong resident of Aurora, born the eldest of three to Theodore and Elizabeth (Poss) Nilges on December 9, 1926.

Tony retired after 35 years as a machinist with the Burlington Northern Railroad in 1982, and he was a member of the Burlington Northern Twin Ponds Club. He also worked part time as a maintenance man at St. Therese Church in Aurora and the former Mount St. Mary, in St. Charles.

Tony proudly served his country in the Army during WW II in the Philippines, and always kept a flag flying in his yard.

On September 6, 1947, he married the love of his life Imelda Pickert of Richmond, KS, moving her to Aurora where they spent 56 years together in the house he built for her until her death in 2004.

He was a creative and imaginative person who had a talent working with motors. He was known for building and repairing tractors, lawnmowers, trailers, and even built a circus wagon, merry-go-round, electric motorcycle and his famous electric lawn chair.

For several years he played in a band with his brother, having been self-taught on guitar, keyboard, and fiddle.

He also had a great love of gardening and took great pride in his yard which showcased hundreds of flowers each year, but he was proudest of his family.

Tony is survived by his six children, Sharon (Gibson) Nevels, Rosemary

(Richard) Hauser, David Nilges, Cathy (Roger Lee) Kott, Bonnie (Archie) Vargas, Marsha (late Douglas) Bock; 18 grandchildren; 38 great-grandchildren; five great-great grandchildren; two brothers-in-law, Adrian (Jayne) Pickert, Larry (Patty) Pickert; three sisters-in-law, Henrietta Mersman, Delores (Donald) Oswald, Rilla Ann (Mark) Mersmann; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Imelda; his great granddaughter, Amber McNamara; his brother the Rev. Harold Nilges; his sister Sr. Marianne Nilges, SSF; his son-in-law Douglas Bock; brothers-in-law Charles Miller, Vernon Pickert, Raymond Mersman; sisters-in-law Charlotte Pickert and Evelyn Pickert.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, December 30, 2021 at 9:30 am from THE DALEIDEN MORTUARY to St. Therese Church at 10:00 AM followed by interment at Marywood Cemetery.

Visitation will be held Thursday, December 30, 2021 from 9:00 am until the funeral hour at THE DALEIDEN MORTUARY, 220 N. Lake St., Aurora, 630-631-5500. Due to Covid-19 pandemic protocols, face masks are required for those in attendance at the funeral home and at church.

Memorials may be sent in his memory to St. Therese Church in Aurora, or the Richmond Museum in Richmond, KS.

Please visit our website at www.daleidenmortuary.com where you may leave condolences for Anthony's family.

Cemetery Details

Marywood Cemetery

Church Road
aurora, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 30. 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM (CT)

Daleiden Mortuary
220 N. Lake Street
Aurora, IL 60506
(630) 631-5500
daleidenmortuary@gmail.com
<https://www.daleidenmortuary.com>

Morning Prayers

DEC 30. 9:30 AM (CT)

Daleiden Mortuary
220 N. Lake Street
Aurora, IL 60506
(630) 631-5500
daleidenmortuary@gmail.com
<https://www.daleidenmortuary.com>

Funeral Mass

DEC **30**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Therese Church
271 North Farnsworth Avenue
Aurora, IL 60505
1-630-898-5422

Tribute Wall



“ Daleiden Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Anthony J. Nilges



Daleiden Mortuary - December 27, 2021 at 02:10 PM

BV

What a beautiful tribute to this kind and loving man. A wonderful husband and Dad, grandpa. May the family find peace in knowing their loved one is in heaven with Jesus. God's peace be with you all.

Bonnie Vargas - December 30, 2021 at 04:40 PM

PP

Tony was very special in so many ways.

Pat Poss - January 11, 2022 at 10:46 AM

FR

“ I was saddened to read Tony's obituary in the Beacon News. He was a great and good man, always willing to serve, to help, to build, to speak, to care. In the short time I was pastor of St. Therese, he was one who could always be counted on to be present, to be helpful and involved, and faithful to the Lord day in and day out. Together with Imelda, they impressed me greatly as the kind of couple the Sacrament of Marriage envisions. May he rest in peace and rise in Christ's glory. And may all of you in the family know Christ's peace and consolation as you adjust to life without his bigger-than-life presence. I'm sorry I could not make the visitation or the Funeral Mass due to conflicts in my own schedule, but I have remembered him in the Eucharist and will do so through this weekend.
Fr. Michael D. Rasicci, Rector
Calvary Episcopal Church
Batavia, IL

Fr Michael D. Rasicci - December 31, 2021 at 06:14 PM

MB

“ My deepest sympathy at this time of loss. I fondly remember visits to Illinois as a young girl with my parents and sisters and how much we enjoyed the hospitality and time spent with Tony, my Aunts, Uncles and cousins. Tony was such a talented and fun person. His phone calls and many visits back to Kansas to attend Nilges reunions were always special. My last visit with Tony in Illinois was in 2009 with my husband, Ben, and I'll cherish that time we spent with him and his family. He was a treasure and will be sorely missed. May your fondest memories carry you through this difficult time. You're all in my thoughts and prayers.
Marilyn (Nilges) Bennett, Ottawa, KS

Marilyn (Nilges) Bennett - December 29, 2021 at 02:31 PM

DI

“ A wonderful member of "THE GREATEST GENERATION". He served his country with pride, and returned home from the war to start a beautiful Christian family. What an outstanding example for his offspring to follow. He never met anyone who needed some kind of help, without, in some way, trying to help. He was a giant among husbands, fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers. God bless him and his love Imelda as they together, walk hand in hand through eternity.

Dick - December 29, 2021 at 01:07 PM

TH

“ Wonderful grandfather / great - grandfather. So many memories of extended family get togethers. His creativity and gardening skills seemed to know no equal, nor did his love for grandma. I can envision them walking happily together again... During our last visit with him, maybe a month ago, my daughter asked him what was his favorite thing about Thanksgiving this year. "Peanut Butter" was his response. May there be peanut butter in Heaven, grandpa. Peanut butter in Heaven.....

Tim Hauser - December 28, 2021 at 01:28 PM

TF

“ The Mersman Family purchased the Red & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Anthony J. Nilges.



The Mersman Family - December 28, 2021 at 08:01 AM

(F)

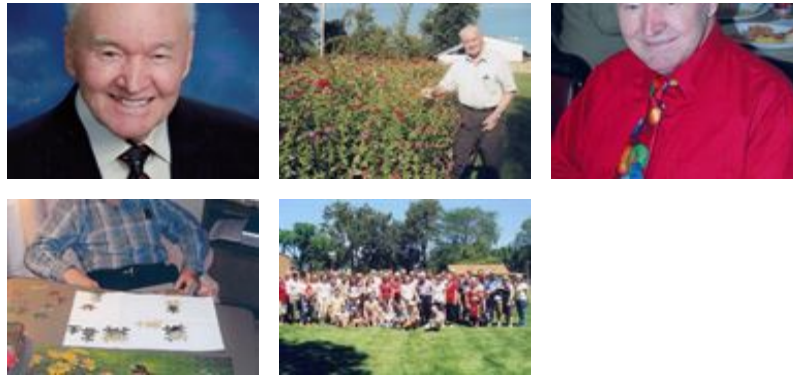
“ (Pickert family) purchased the Blue & White Sym pathy Floor Basket for the family of Anthony J. Nilges.



(Pickert family) - December 27, 2021 at 09:30 PM



“ 54 files added to the album Life Tributes



Daleiden Mortuary - December 27, 2021 at 02:04 PM

DG

“ Such fond memories I have of trips to visit the Illinois family. Uncle Tony always had amazing inventions to see. Thinking of you all, and keeping you in our prayers.
Donna Pickert Goss

Donna Goss - December 25, 2021 at 10:58 AM