



## Ralph Martin Contreras

August 12, 1925 - January 14, 2017

Ralph M. Contreras, age 91, of Dixon died Saturday Jan. 14, 2017 in his home, surrounded by family. He was born Aug. 12, 1925, in Dixon, the son of Eustaquio and Florentina (Ruiz) Contreras. He started washing dishes at Ford Hopkins Drug Store in Dixon when he was 14 years, and worked his way up to being the assistant manager there. After the store closed, he was commissary manager at the Dixon State School prior to retirement. Ralph also owned and operated RC Trophies and was a handyman helping people with everything from yard care to house painting. He enjoyed gardening at his home, as well as a section of petunias on Palmyra Ave.

He was a member of St Anne Catholic Church where he served as an usher. He was also a member of Golden Kiwanis, VFW, American Legion, Knights of Columbus, and Lion's Club. He was committed to the work of the Goodfellows and volunteered for them for over 60 years. He was active in coaching and managing baseball teams in the Al Morrison baseball program. He was also hospice volunteer for several years. In addition, he also did fund-raising for the building of the YMCA in Dixon.

Ralph had been a member of the Dixon Park Board and served on the Dixon City Council where he was Street Commissioner for many years. He was one of the founders of the slow-pitch softball league in Dixon, and enjoyed playing in the Dixon Men's and the Church Softball Leagues,

He was a Veteran of the Marine Corps during WW II and received the Purple Heart Medal. He was a member of the Marine Corps League and worked on

the Toys for Tots program for many years.

Ralph was a career community and public servant and took his service to the community very seriously. He was a lifelong Cubs fan who finally had a dream fulfilled when his beloved Cubs won the World Series last fall.

He is survived by his children Anita (Frank Ward) Contreras of Union, MO and Les Contreras of Galesburg, IL.

Ralph is also survived by brothers Larry (Gloria) Contreras of Dixon, Jessie Contreras of Chicago, and Angelo "Chico" (Ruth) Contreras of Dixon, sister Julia Contreras of Dixon, brother-in-law Carl Anderson of Brooksville, FLA, sister in law Anita Contreras of Dixon, many nieces and nephews, and longtime companion Melda Heeg of Dixon.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Nelo and Gilbert Contreras, sisters Helen Contreras, Angela Contreras and Esther Anderson.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday Jan. 20, 2017 at 10:00 AM at St Anne Catholic Church in Dixon with the Rev. Antoni Kretowicz officiating.

Military Honors by the Combined Veterans Group will follow Mass at the church. Cremation rites will follow with burial of cremains at a later date at Oakwood Cemetery in Dixon. Visitation will be on Thursday from 4:00 to 8:00 PM with the Rosary at 7:30 PM in the Jones Funeral Home and on Friday from 9:00 to 9:45 AM at the church.

In lieu of flowers memorials have been established to Hospice of the Rock River Valley and St Anne Catholic Church.

# Cemetery Details

## Oakwood

416 S Dement Ave  
Dixon, IL 61021

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JAN 19.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Jones Funeral Home, Dixon  
204 South Ottawa  
Dixon, IL 61021  
Ph: 815-288-2241  
[info@thejonesfh.com](mailto:info@thejonesfh.com)  
<https://www.thejonesfh.com>

## Service

**JAN 20.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Anne Catholic Church  
1104 N Brinton Ave  
Dixon, IL 61021  
(815) 288-3131  
[http://www.stanneschooldixon.org/st\\_anne\\_parish.htm](http://www.stanneschooldixon.org/st_anne_parish.htm)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ralph Martin Contreras*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Ralph Martin Contreras*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *I found this website today while looking up Ralph online. I know I am late to post but still wanted to share.*

*My brother and I always considered Ralph our grandfather growing up. He attended many of our sports games, family Christmases, and birthdays. Any family event, Ralph would be there in attendance with my Grandma, Melda Heeg. He was the type of person who was quiet, but he had so many interesting stories and parts of his life to share when he did talk. He was always kind.*

*I have a lot of fond memories growing up with Ralph around, and I still think of him often. He was and still is family.*

*Miss you Ralph!*

*-Sarah Heeg*

Sarah Heeg - December 07, 2021 at 11:41 AM



“ *Ralph was a great guy. New him many years working with him on street improvements for city of Dixon. Had a great sense of humor. Had many stories to tell.*

*Jerry Hinrichs*

jerry hinrichs - January 18, 2017 at 07:51 AM

TE

“ *Temco, board of directors, staff and employees purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ralph Martin Contreras.*



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**Temco, board of directors, staff and employees** - January 17, 2017 at 04:10 PM

TC

“ *Anita,  
Praying for family and friends to comfort you,  
faith to uphold you, and loving memories to  
help you smile again. God bless.*



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**Trina L. Cookson** - January 17, 2017 at 11:56 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ralph Martin Contreras.*



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January 17, 2017 at 11:44 AM

GS

“ *I worked with Ralph at Ford Hopkins when I was in high school and have known and admired him for over 50 years. He was an asset to both this country as a Marine and as a long time servant of this community. He will be missed. Glenn Wallin Sr.*

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**Glenn Wallin Sr** - January 15, 2017 at 07:14 PM

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“ , helen melendrez clayton, neil & brenda kerchner purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ralph Martin Contreras.



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, helen melendrez clayton, neil & brenda kerchner - January 15, 2017 at 03:49 PM

Ann  
Nordan

“ Part of my heart is missing, but my love for him is stronger than ever before! I told you that I would be with you till the very end and although you are not here now I know we'll be together again! Love you Uncle Ralph Rest In Paradise



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Ann Nordan - January 15, 2017 at 02:51 PM