

Funeral services for Ralph E. Plote, 71, of Victor Township, Leland II, will be held at 2 pm, Sunday, at Leland United Methodist Church. The Rev. Alka Lyall will officiate, with fellowship to follow. Born Jan. 25, 1930, on the family farm in Palatine Township, Palatine, the son of Elmer Christian and Luella (Bruns) Plote, he died Friday Dec. 21, 2001, at his home after a courageous battle with cancer. His cremains will rest at Randhill Park Cemetery, Rand Road, Arlington Heights, at a private ceremony. Mr. Plote attended Highland Grove Country School and graduated from Palatine High School in 1948. He worked on the family dairy farm at Ela and Central Roads until being drafted for the Lorean War on Jan. 8, 1954. Ralph received an honorable discharge Nov 1, 1955 as a Sergeant First Class Heavy Equipment Dispatcher with the 185th Engineer Battalion of the army. Upon his return, he married Elaine Dorothea Heinrich on Dec. 4, 1955, at St. John's Evangelical and Reform Church, Bensenville. Four children were raised at Palatine until their relocation to Leland on Father's Day Jun 15, 1969. Ralph raised grain and livestock for the ensuing 32 years, during which he was a DeKalb County Farm Bureau Member. He was also a member of the Montgomery VFW Post #7452 and a baptized member of St. John's United Church of Christ, Palatine. Ralph was a loving husband, father and grandfather who will be greatly missed by his family and friends. He devoted himself to his wife's care for over 20 years and nobly donated his body to science. He hoped that a cure could end the suffering of future generations. He is survived by his wife Elaine; children, Sandra (Ken) Mason, Marlene (Larry) Sampson, Lester Plote and Roy (Janet) Plote all of Leland; sister, Margaret (Elmer) Reuter of Somonauk; uncle, Arthur Plote of DeKalb; grandchildren, Brooke (Matt) Grzanich, Ryan Mason, Jennifer and Brittany Sampson, and Ethan and Avery Plote; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother on Nov. 24, 1988 and his father on Nov. 21, 1994. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Leland United Methodist Church; Valley West Community Hospital Building Fund; DeKalb County Hospice; The American Cancer Society or to the charity of the donors choice. Arrangements were made by Turner Funeral Home Somonauk, Ill. For information (815) 498-2363.