



## Gordon R. Church

September 25, 1927 - November 17, 2016

Gordon Church, 89, of Aurora, died Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016 at the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain. He was born on Sept. 25, 1927 in Aurora, the son of the late Glenn and Gertrude (Cardinal) Church.

Gordon attended Riverview Grade School in Aurora and graduated from Kingsford High School. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 410th Construction Battalion, serving from 1945-1947. Gordon worked as a Customer Service Representative at Kimberly Clark/Pentair Corp. for thirty years, retiring in 1987.

He married Helen Czech on Oct. 16, 1948 at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Armstrong Creek. Together the couple managed the family's 310 acre tree farm for recreational, wildlife, and forestry purposes and raised their 10 children. Helen preceded him in death on July 29, 2012.

Gordon was a snowmobile safety instructor and automobile instructor for the local 4-H programs. He served on the Aurora Town Board for 16 years and was a past board chairman. Gordon served on the Florence County Board of Supervisors for fourteen years, serving 6 years as its vice-chairman. Gordon was on the Northern Great Lakes Resource Advisory Committee from 1966-1968 and served on the Florence County Civilian Defense-Radiological Monitoring in 1962. He was a charter member of NEWCAP and served as the

Florence County representative. Gordon was a Florence County Deputy Sheriff in 1972 and a charter member of the Northeastern Wisconsin regional Planning Commission. Gordon also served on the Aurora Diamond Jubilee Committee in 1992 and as the Master of Ceremonies at the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Homestead-Aurora Cemetery. Gordon was a member of the Florence County Cancer Board for 31 years and the state cancer board for 3 years. Along with his wife, he was an American Cancer volunteer for thirty years and participated in the Society's Cancer Prevention Study-II, providing information to cancer risk researchers. Gordon was considered a historian of Aurora and was a true pillar of the community.

He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Aurora, where he served on the parish council and was an usher. He also belonged to the Cretton-Tutas American Legion Post #136 and the Niagara Knights of Columbus #2847, where he served as Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, trustee, and secretary.

Gordon was an avid deer hunter and trout fisherman. He liked to fish in "the last of the best places" and spend time at Camp 12.5 with family, friends and his J.K.

Gordon is survived by his children Juanita (David Burgess) Carlson of Lawrence, Kan., Marilyn (Bill) Vassar of Aurora, Patricia Church of Iron Mountain, Frances (Andrew) Herman of Niagara, Veronica Church of Niagara, Gerard (Linda) Church of Homestead, Joseph Church of Aurora, and Jon Church of Stephenson, his brother William (Florence) Church of Fence, his sister Marge DeClark of Powers, daughter-in-law Jackie Church of Goodman, son-in-law Ray Miannecki of Green Bay, numerous great grandchildren and even more grandchildren. He also leaves many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his son Peter, his daughter Katherine Mianecki, his brothers Clifford and Roger Church, his brother-in-law Gary DeClark and his sister-in-law Charlotte Church.

Visitation will be Wed. from 9am-12 noon at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
Funeral services will follow at 12 noon at the church. Father Matthew Settle will celebrate the Mass of Christian Burial. Burial will be in the Homestead-Aurora Cemetery.

Gordon's grandsons will serve as pallbearers.

The family would like to extend a thank you to the staff at Dickinson County Memorial Hospital, the VA Medical Center CLC, and Dr. Beth Schroeder and her staff for taking care of this great and wonderful man.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Gordon Church online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com)

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Homestead-Aurora Cemetery

1372 Osterberg Parkway  
Niagara, WI 54151

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **23**. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
1432 River St.  
Aurora, WI 54151

## Funeral Mass

NOV **23**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
1432 River St.  
Aurora, WI 54151

# Tribute Wall

NJ

“ *Uncle Gordy ... the last family patriarch ... such a legacy* ”



Noreen and Don Jameson - November 23, 2016 at 02:27 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gordon R. Church.* ”



November 22, 2016 at 10:25 AM

RR

“ *Rick Czech and Eileen Roman purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gordon R. Church.* ”



Rick Czech and Eileen Roman - November 21, 2016 at 05:18 PM



“ *Health Nut Basket was purchased for the family of Gordon R. Church.* ”



November 21, 2016 at 02:29 PM

NL

“ One of my favorite childhood memories was the night there was a bonfire. We were up on vacation, and Uncles Andy and Paul were there too. Well, you guy had some puppies. I think they were beagles. The men were having some beers, and after it got loud and rowdy, Uncle Gordy found the pie plate they must have been using for food, and poured some beer in it. Well, everyone laughed as these pups slurped it right down, and someone poured more....and soon these pups were staggering all over the place and falling down drunk. My sister mentions this from time to time, so I know it a fond memory for her as well. Kept us kids entertained. Uncle Gordy always had a joke or a story. He will be missed. ❤️

*Nan Leppard*

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**Nan Leppard** - November 21, 2016 at 03:41 AM

DB

“ Gordy knew I loved cognac, and nearly every time I visited he opened a bottle and then gave it to me when we left. Guess I'll need a new supplier.

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**David Burress** - November 20, 2016 at 12:50 PM

MW

“ My dad, Dwaine Zahorik, my uncle Jim Schabel, and cousins Little Joe and Jimmy Schabel all used to hunt with Gordie and his boys. It was always a good time at camp with them all. Gordie was a good man, always fun to be around and will be greatly missed. Kindest Regards and Respect.....Scott Zahorik.

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**Margaret Wisniewski** - November 20, 2016 at 12:18 PM

PS

“*Fran & all your family,  
I was so very sorry to read of Gordy's passing. It is hard for me to think about Aurora and not think of him. He was one of the great story tellers I ever met. Though I can no longer remember the details now, his explanation of all of the pictures on an Old Style beer can was hilarious. I will keep you all in my prayers in the days to come. God bless, Paul (Ferd) Swanson*

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**PAUL SWANSON** - November 19, 2016 at 12:36 PM

DB

*Damn. Wish I had heard that story.*

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**David Burress** - November 20, 2016 at 12:45 PM

JD

“*I look at this picture and grin. Something that happens whenever you were around Gordy. His kind soul and humor were a gift. I walked into church many a Sunday with Gordy and was treated to many stories, poems or jokes that left me with a giggle or an outright belly laugh. I'm blessed that he crossed my path in life and I grateful for my treasured memories of him. I'm sure the Angels at "Camp" in heaven are laughing and smiling down on all of the Church family.  
With sympathy & love,  
Joan DeClark*

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**Joan DeClark** - November 18, 2016 at 10:49 PM