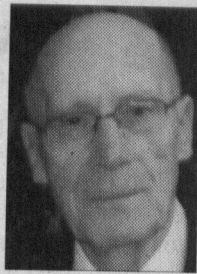# Walter R. Fortener

Walter R. Fortener, age 79, of Coldwater, died Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008 at his residence.

He was born Dec. 11, 1928, in Dayton, to the late Walter C. and Mary (Urke) Fortener. He was placed in St. Joseph Orphanage at the age of 2 ½ and lived there until the age of 11. He then went to his foster home with Andrew and Erma Beumer in St. Peter, until his marriage to Mary Lou Knapke on July 9, 1949.

They have six children: Eric Fortener of Coldwater, Ron (Annette) Fortener of Vandalia, Randy (Barb) Fortener of Dublin, Roger (Jane) Fortener of Whitehouse, Nancy (Jerry) Fleck of Coldwater and Russ (Judy) Fortener of Coldwater; as well as 11 grandchildren: Christie Gates, Stephanie Attwood, Andy, Philip, Taylor and Emily Fortener, Chad, Craig, Tyler and Molly Fleck; and two great grandchildren: Leigha and Gabby Gates. He also leaves behind a sister Marie (Gary) Olwine of Fort Recovery and a foster son in law Joe (Rhonda) Voskuhl of Vandalia. He is preceded in death by a sister and brother-in-law Mary Ann (John) Appleton, a sister Kathleen Norris and a foster daughter Pam Voskuhl.

Walter was an active member of his community. He was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Coldwater, a church commentator, CCD teacher and commentator scheduler for many years. He was a member of Coldwater Fraternal Order of Eagles #3025, Coldwater Knights of Columbus Council #1991. He was an excellent speaker and emcee of many events both political and ceremonial. He was also past president of the board of governors of the former Our Lady of Mercy Hospital in Coldwater, Coldwater Village council member, Mayor of Coldwater, County Treasurer, Ohio State Representative and retired as the Chief of Enforcement State of Employees of Ohio (P.U.C.O.). He also owned his own businesses, Coldwater Maintenance and Western Auto. He was very well known throughout Mercer County. He had a wonderful sense of humor, was loved dearly and is missed by his family.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008, with Rev. Ron Wilker officiating. Hogenkamp Funeral Home of Coldwater handled the arrangements.