

Gerald E. Helfrich

VETERAN
US MARINE CORPS
WORLD WAR II
IWO JIMA

Early Life: Gerald was born February 7, 1924, in rural Barton County, the son of George Anthony Helfrich and Katherine J. "Katie" Demroth Helfrich.

Life's Work/Service/Interests: He had been a resident of Great Bend, Kansas, moving there from Las Animas, Colorado. He was the owner of Helfrich Liquor Store before his retirement. He married Patricia Jean McMullen on June 16, 1949, at St. Rose of Lima Church, Great Bend. She preceded him in death on June 23, 1984. He married Velma Ruth Ford Clair on January 28, 1989, in Estes Park, Colorado. She preceded him in death on December 4, 1996. Gerald was a World War II veteran, serving in the United States Marine Corps aboard the USS Boston. He was an Iwo Jima survivor. He was a member of Prince of Peace Parish at St. Rose, Knights of Columbus Council No. 862, Elks BPO Lodge No. 1127, VFW Post No. 7428, and Fraternal Order of Eagles, all of Great Bend. Gerald E. Helfrich, of Great Bend, Kansas, died Monday, April 9, 2007, at his home. He was 83.

Survived By: A son, John M. Helfrich; two daughters: Shannon M. Smith and Kimberley K. Morse (Scott); three stepsons: William, Brad, and Frank Clair; five stepdaughters: Melissa Donovan, Melina Clair, Gerise Vignaroli, Michele McFarran, Sherry Price; a sister, Mary Hester; 30 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Preceded In Death By: His parents, two wives and one brother, George Helfrich.