

## **Leo I. Gerow**

Leo I. Gerow, known to many as Jerry, passed away September 25, 2009 at his home. He was 84 years young.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, September 30, 2009, at St. Charles Borromeo Chapel located in the St. Joseph Parish Family Life Center, with Father Edward Menasco, celebrant and Deacon Jeff Willard, assisting.

Leo was born in Fitchburg, MA on September 17, 1925 to the parents of Eva and Isadore Gerow. He had one brother, Ronald Wilfred Gerow. He lived there until joining the Air Force following graduation from St Bernard's High School.

In the Army-Air Force he qualified, as a Navigator-Bombardier on a B-25 which was the plane used in the first bombing mission on Tokyo with Billy Mitchell as leader. He was awarded the ATO Ribbon and Victory Medal WW II.

His dream was to be a pilot and he kept volunteering for all these schools waiting for a space in pilot training to open. Even though this dream was never fulfilled, he was extremely proud of his service and because of it, he met the love of his life and true soul-mate, Margaret Elois McBroom while at the roller rink in Monroe, LA, on a pass from Selman Field. He and his love, Elois, knew that first night they were destined to be together, marrying soon after on May 2, 1946.

They had two children, Rose Marie Smith, of Norman, and Margaret Elois Craig, of Newalla, both born in Fitchburg, MA. Between the births of his daughters he graduated Magna Cum Laude from Worcester School of Business Science. Soon afterwards Leo and family moved to Ruston, LA where he was employed by William A Marbury Co. and became an officer in that company.

While in Ruston he was an active member of the Kiwanis Club and became President in 1965 and later became Lieutenant Governor. He was also an Eagle Scout leader achieving the Vigil Honor of the Order of the Arrow for his distinguished contributions above and beyond.

Rose Marie gave them two grandchildren, Kimberley McDaniel of Noble, OK and Christopher Smith, married to Liberty Smith, of Allen, TX. From their granddaughter Kimberley, they were blessed with three great-grandchildren John, Kyle and Michael McDaniel of Houston, Texas.

When their daughter Margaret married Ray Craig, Sr. August 17, 1991 they received two more grandchildren, Ray Craig II and Edena Pauline Craig, of Ninnekah, Ok. Each brought forth great-grandchildren Ray Craig III (Trey), and Erik Holman, respectively.

After retirement, Leo volunteered at the Norman Police department and at his church, St. Joseph Catholic church where he served as Eucharistic minister at church, Norman Regional Hospital and at the Veteran's Hospital in Norman.

If flowers are not a preference, in memory of our father, the family requests donations be made to either the Boy Scouts of America or the St. Vincent De Paul Society.

Send condolences online at <http://www.havenbrookfuneralhome.com/Obituaries.htm>