

Thomas Ralph Finnerty

April 7, 1928 – February 25, 2008

Funeral liturgy for Thomas Ralph Finnerty, 79, were held 10:30 A.M. Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at the Saint Patrick's Catholic Church in Wheatland, Wyoming with Father Jan Santich as the Celebrant. The Vigil for the Deceased was held 7:00 P.M. Monday, February 25, 2008 at the Saint Patrick's Catholic. Inurnment was in the Wheatland Cemetery.

Tom Finnerty a resident of Wheatland died Friday, February 22, 2008 at the VA Hospice in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Tom was born April 7, 1928 the son of Elizabeth and James Finnerty. He was raised and educated in Cheyenne at Saint Mary's Catholic School. He was a World War II veteran and served in the United States Army with Special Forces in Japan. He was married to Anita J. Haag in 1952, and moved to the M-Bar family ranch at Slater, Wyoming. Saratoga, Wyoming was his next home, where he was employed by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). He and Anita, with a family of three children, made a crucial decision to move to Laramie, Wyoming where he attended the University of Wyoming and earned a degree in Agriculture. He continued working for the SCS. Career moves included work in Laramie, Lander, Worland, and Wheatland, Wyoming. He retired

after a successful career in 1988.

Not only did he pursue a professional career, he found it necessary to work additional jobs to provide for his growing family, which would include eight children. Breaking horses, sweeping and mowing hay, delivering milk, purchasing and working a farm in Worland kept him busy, as well as providing him many opportunities to meet wonderful people who would become lifelong friends. Tom was extremely proud of his Irish heritage and his family. He was a man of great faith who was very thankful for the good life he had. He enjoyed lively discussions, storytelling, and many outdoor activities.

A loving father, he is survived by his wife, Anita; his children, Karol (Jake) Gustin, Beth (Tony) Simonich, Tim, Patty Bonham, Jim, Marty (Linda), Tommy (Amy), and Colleen (Mark) Mecsseji; twenty grandchildren, and two great grandchildren; and siblings, Irene Hones, Mary Pry, Patricia Birdwell, Jack, and Dan.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers, James, Edward, and Robert.

Memorials may be sent to donor's Hospice of choice.

Gorman Funeral Homes – Platte Chapel of Wheatland is in charge of the arrangements.