



## Ralph Gertken

September 14, 1938 - September 1, 2025

Ralph was born in Richmond, MN to Norbert and Margaret (VanHoorik) Gerken. He worked for the county for many years. Ralph started Ralph's Excavating after he left the county. He loved ice fishing, hunting, breakfast at the café and of course his dump truck and machinery.

Survivors include his partner, Shirley; grandson, Cole; siblings, Evelyn Rothstein, MaryAnn (Robert) Schmitz, Margie Rothstein, Alvin (Linda), Nettie (Nick) Hemmesch.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Matt; brothers, Jerome and Ervin.

Cemetery services with military honors will be at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls, MN.

# Cemetery Details

## Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery

15550 Minnesota 115  
Little Falls, MN 56345

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

SEP **10**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery  
15550 Minnesota 115  
Little Falls, MN 56345

# Tribute Wall

NO

“ ~A Gentle Man~



No1'sBiz - September 17, 2025 at 02:30 AM

PH

“ *What a gentle, caring, kind, helpful soul. It's hard to imagine not seeing him in his road grater plowing the snow packed country roads and giving a big wave of his hand and smiling, of course. Often asking if you needed any help!*

Pat Hemmesch - September 09, 2025 at 01:13 PM

NU

“ *The most honest and down to earth I was lucky enough to know--  
REST IN PIECE!!!*

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**Nubby** - September 02, 2025 at 09:46 PM