



Joseph "Joe" Hruza, Jr., 87, of Burwell, Nebraska died April 28, 2015 at the CHI Health Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Nebraska.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 2, 2015 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Ord, Nebraska. Burial will be in the Ord City Cemetery. Fr. Mark Maresh will officiate. Visitation will be from 4 – 6 p.m. at the church with a 6:00 p.m. Rosary. Memorials are suggested to the American Legion Baseball. Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell is in charge of arrangements.

Joe was born in northern Lancaster County, Nebraska to Joseph and Augusta (Stryzek) Hruza, Sr. Joe moved with his family in 1936 to a farm northeast of Burwell in Garfield county. He attended country school up till the 8th grade. At 14 years of age he started working for various farmers in the area to help support the family.

Joe enlisted in the United States Marines to serve in World War II. He talked often of his time in China, riding train guard and serving the USA.

Joe married Rose Marie Sevenker on June 30, 1957, at her parents' home northeast of Ord, Nebraska. They made their home on the family farm northeast of Burwell in Garfield County. Joe farmed with his brother, Richard on the family farm until 1984, with his passing. Joe believed in change, in putting down one of the first irrigation wells, followed by one of the first Valley pivots. He was one of the first to begin minimum-till farming and today no-till farming. Joe continued to live his life on the farm, doing what he loved. Rose Marie died January 5, 1996.

Joe married Rita Cecetka on December 31, 1997, they resided on the family farm where Rita was able to live out her dream of rural life, until her passing on December 31, 2012.

Joe was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the American Legion. Joe like baseball. He started the Loup Valley Little League, for pee wee and pony league baseball teams. He coached the Sand Flats for several years. He enjoyed following the St. Louis Cardinals.

Joe is survived by four children, Dan and Tammy Hruza of Burwell, Nebraska, Wayne and Christy Hruza of Ord, Nebraska, Jean and Frank Johns of Hemingford, Nebraska and Nancy and Keith Andersen of Adams, Nebraska. Seven grandchildren, Anthony and Emilie Hruza of Burwell Nebraska, Sarah Hruza of Burwell, Nebraska, Kristen Andersen of Omaha, Nebraska and Keri Andersen of Adams, Nebraska. Three step-grandchildren, Trisha Dahlke of Rochester, Minnesota, Travis Dahlke of Grand Island ,Nebraska, Tracy Dahlke of Lincoln, Nebraska. One Great grandchild, Brock Hruza of Burwell, Nebraska. A brother, George and Dorothy Hruza of Ord, Nebraska. Two sisters, Laura and Emil Hynek of Lincoln, Nebraska and Adeline Nelson of Burwell, Nebraska and a sister-in-law, Alma Hruza of Ord, Nebraska. Ten step children, Kathleen and Richard Elsinger, Rich and Claudia Cecetka, Joan Thomas, Thomas Cecetka, Geri Nisely, Ed Cecetka, Elaine Cecetka-Wood, Mary Jo Cecetka, James Cecetka and Ruth Cecetka.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, two wives, Rose Marie and Rita, a brother, Richard Hruza and a brother-in-law, Lonnie Nelson.