

Rustem Family



he Rustem name came here when Gerald W. Rustem moved to the Frankenmuth area in August of 1952. Gerald was transferred to Saginaw by General Motors. He selected Frankenmuth because he wanted his children to attend the Frankenmuth schools.

Six children attended Frankenmuth High School; four were in the National Honor Society; four were involved in football; two in basketball; three in baseball; six in forensics/debate/school plays; four of them had president or vice-president positions; and one was in Venner.

In addition, Gerald served as President of the PTA, President of the Athletic Association, served on the Frankenmuth Board of Education from 1973-1991, and served on the Saginaw Intermediate School Board as member and president.

Gerald W. Rustem was born at 207 East Wilson Avenue, in Pontiac, Michigan. His father came from Albania. His grandparents on his father's side were Irean and Dudy Joffrui Rustem. His grandparents on his mother's side were Frank and Katherine Muszynski Janowiak.

After attending elementary and high school at Pontiac, he attended Pontiac Business Institute and graduated with a Bachelor of Commercial Degree on January 28, 1943. On February 17, 1943, he was inducted into the U.S. Army at Fort Custer in Battle Creek. He ended up in the 104th Infantry Division of the 26th Regiment and was sent to France.

On November 13, 1944 his entire battalion was captured by the German Army in Rodalbe, France and sent to a prisoner camp in Parchim, Germany.

They spent about six months at this camp. Because the Allied Forces were nearing the camp, the German Military Police moved them to a more central part of Germany. During the move, British planes attacked the train and Gerald was wounded. He was taken to a hospital where a German doctor removed the shrapnel.

On May 7, 1945, the American Army freed them and Gerald was taken on a stretcher to England, from there to New York, and finally to Perry Jones Hospital in Battle Creek, Michigan, where he spent an additional nine months recuperating. He received an honorable discharge on June 16, 1946.

Gerald attended General Motors Institute and graduated on August 4, 1950 with a four year certificate in Business Administration.

During Gerald's first year at GMI, his war wound flared up again and he spent a week at Hurley Hospital in Flint. He was attracted to one of the nurses at the hospital, Elizabeth J. Harrison. They were married September 6, 1947 and had seven children:

William R. married Brenda Devaull; they had two children, Stephanie and Kimberly.

Loren D. married Jonalyn Reindel; they had two children, Amanda and Kate.

Charles E. married Donna Durkin; they had two children, Sommer and Brandon.

Raymond A. married Anita Hofbauer; they had two children, Danielle and Aaron.

Rodney B. was born in 1955 and died in 1967.

Kathryn L. married Stanley Krajkowski; they had three children, Matthew, Jennifer and Rachel.

Christine R. married Thomas Spendlove; they had three children, Cassidy, Abby and Zoey.



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