
James N. "J.R." Rosenthal



"Retired from the [U.S. Navy](#)" James N. "J.R." Rosenthal, 80, of Erie, passed away Sunday, August 28, 2011, at the Erie VA Medical Center. Born in Erie July 6, 1931, he was the son of the late George and Elvera Lundquist Rosenthal. He was a graduate of Millcreek High School, served in the Navy from 1948 until retiring in 1968 as a Chief Petty Officer. He served on board the USS Pawcatuck (AO-108), the USS Muliphen (AKA-61), the USS Fort Snelling (LSD-30) and the USS William M. Wood (DD-715). James was awarded 5 Good Conduct Medals, the Navy Occupation Medal, (Europe), the National Defense and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. J.R. then worked at Litton Industries during construction of two, 1,000 foot ore boats. He enjoyed golf, bowling, gardening and playing 500 Rummy at the Mercy Center, and was a member of [V.F.W.](#) Post 470, American Legion Post 773, the Siebenbuenger Club and Moose Lodge 593. He was a proud donor to the U.S. Naval Memorial. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by five brothers, George, Gordon, Norman, John and Dale Rosenthal, and a sister, Elvera Harvey. Survivors include his wife, Margaret Szumigala

Rosenthal; sisters, Lorraine Rohrer, Doris Ebert, Gertrude Ballas, and Nancy Corklin, all of Erie; daughters, Susan Zearfoss, husband, Darrell, Diane Pessa, husband, Kenneth, all of Erie; sons, LCDR James N. Rosenthal, Jr., USN Retired., wife, Deana, of Edmond, Okla., and LCDR Larry A. Rosenthal, USN, wife, Julie, stationed in Hawaii; stepchildren, Kathleen Bucci, David Smith, wife, Kim, all of Erie, Debra Kieffer, husband, Brett, of Thomasville, Ga.; grandchildren, Ryan Wonner, of Erie, William Wonner, USAF, stationed in Germany, Shelby Smith, husband, Gary, Steven Kitchener, James N. Rosenthal III, USN, wife, Brittany, stationed in Portsmouth, N.H., Joshua, Daniel and Mercedes Rosenthal, Alicia, Becka, Blake, Austin and Bailey Rosenthal; step-grandchildren, Vanessa Zearfoss, Corey Zearfoss, wife, Amanda, Keith Sheldon, wife, Jessica, Cory and Nicole Smith and Amanda Smith, husband, Michael, Kylene VanHeiningen, husband, Wally, Ashley and Brett Kieffer; many great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He will also be sadly missed by best friends, Alex and Joyce DeRosa. Calling hours at Brugger Funeral Homes & Crematory, LLP, 1595 West 38th at Greengarden, Thursday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. A Prayer Service will be held there Saturday at 10 a.m. followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Jude the Apostle Church at 11 o'clock. Burial at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Memorials to the Erie VA Medical Center, Unit 4, 135 East 38th Street, Erie, PA 16504 or Northwestern University, Feinberg School. A.L.S. Research, 420 East Superior St., Chicago, IL 60611. Condolences to bruggerfuneralhomes.com.

Published in the Erie Times-News on September 1, 2011
