

HENRY M. STRUEMPH

KILLED IN ACTION – KOREA

Henry Martin Struempf, born Oct. 31, 1930, grew up on the family farm near St. Elizabeth, the middle child of Joseph and Anna Struempf. He had two older sisters, Mary Elizabeth Struempf of the home and Dorothy (Streumph) Heckemeyer, and two younger brothers, Fred and Lawrence.

Henry was in the U.S. Army infantry during the Korean War, a member of the 224th Infantry Regiment, 40th Infantry Division. He was killed by hostile fire on December 22, 1952. Word of his death first came to his sister, Dorothy, who had the sad duty of informing her parents.

Henry's remains were returned to St. Elizabeth. Funeral services were conducted on Saturday, March 7, 1953, at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, Fr. Herman Mayer officiating. Interment was in the St. Lawrence cemetery, north section, Row 19, Grave 4.

Post Everlasting Ceremony. Shortly after his death, the veterans of St. Elizabeth American Legion Post 545 conducted a moving Post Everlasting Ceremony at the parish hall to honor and remember Henry. Gathering in the dark of night, and following the prescribed ritual, the post commander announced: "It is my sad duty to report that Comrade Henry Struempf has been called from our midst and gone to report to the Commander of all." The sergeant-at-arms was ordered to secure the doors and all who were present were told to remain silent. Three rifle bearers came forward, stacked arms, and placed an infantry helmet on top of the rifles. The commander ordered "lights out." The chaplain offered a prayer. A paper symbolizing the service record of Henry Struempf was handed to the chaplain with orders to transmit the file to the "adjutant of Post Everlasting." The chaplain placed the document in an upturned Army helmet that served as a brazier and set the paper on fire. The flames lit up the room. After the last ember died away, the commander ordered the bugler to sound Taps, "in memory of Comrade Henry Struempf and in memory of all the comrades of Post Everlasting of the American Legion." See <https://nclegionpost71.org/post-everlasting-ceremony/> for the prescribed ritual for a Post Everlasting Ceremony.

Americans in the Korean War. American involvement in the Korean War was from June 1950 to Jan. 1955. During that period 6.8 million served in the U.S. military. There were 54,200 deaths to Americans during the period of hostilities in Korea, July 1950 to July 1953. Of these, 33,700 were combat deaths. PFC Henry Struempf was one of them.

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