

We are gathered here this morning to honor Richard Jesionowski – husband, father, grandfather ... veteran, UAW retiree, volunteer ... a good man. He used to come up that aisle to receive communion ... always with a smile on his face.

Richard was born in Posen in 1935 – the same year as Elvis Presley. Franklin Roosevelt was president. Frank Fitzgerald was Michigan's governor.

That year, the Lindbergh Baby Kidnapping trial was held. Amelia Earhart was the first person to make a trans-Pacific flight from Hawaii to California. Humorist Will Rogers died in a plane crash in Alaska. The first airmail cargo flew from California to the Philippines. And all airplanes were banned from flying over the White House.

Porky Pig made his debut on the silver screen. Fibber McGee and Molly debuted on NBC radio.

The first Major League Baseball night game ever was played in Cincinnati. And baseball Hall of Famer, Babe Ruth, played in his last career game – playing for the Boston Braves against the Philadelphia Phillies.

The Labor Day Hurricane – the biggest Category 5 hurricane to make landfall in the US – hit the Florida Keys that year.

I'd visited with Richard after Mass, and when he went into the hospital. And visited him too many times during that lengthy stay. Sally's kept me up-to-date on his situation and condition.

And it is indeed sad. The entire parish mourns with you, and offers our sincerest sympathies.

As we continue this liturgy, let us accompany Richard with our prayers ... on this his final journey into Eternity. May he hear the voice of his Savior calling him: "Well done, good and faithful servant. Come share your master's joy."

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord.