



Frederick Richard Helmke

June 21, 1936 - December 29, 2025

Frederick Richard Helmke, 89, of Napoleon, Ohio passed away on Monday, December 29, 2025. He was born in Defiance County on June 21, 1936, to the late Harold and Mabel (Zachrich) Helmke.

Fred graduated from Jewel High School and was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon. He worked in metal fabrication, but his true love was farming. Fred received the State of Ohio Young Farmer Award and was a 4h Advisor in both Henry and Defiance Counties. In his early days he served on the Jewel Fire Department. Fred enjoyed working on antique tractors and engines in his spare time. He was a member of the Florida Fly Wheelers and the AMVETS, having served his country in the US Army.

Fred is survived by his wife Carol; sons, Dennis (Kathy), Mike (Leanne) and Scott (Stephanie) Helmke; grandchildren, Megan (Brad) Rice, Tyson Helmke, Camden Short, Landon Helmke, McKalynne (Andrew Lyle) Helmke, Abby (Blake) Gehret and Austin Helmke; great grandchild, Emmersyn Rice; and brothers, Kenneth (Glenna), Walt (Linda) and Martin (Nancy) Helmke. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Lou; and sister, Margaret Vogel.

Friends and family will be received at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1075 Glenwood Avenue, Napoleon, on Sunday, January 4, 2026, from 1:00 PM until

the time of services at 2:00 PM. The funeral services will be livestreamed from the church website www.stpaulnapoleon.org

Interment will be private. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Online condolences and messages may be shared with the family at rodenbergergray.com. Arrangements entrusted to Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Napoleon.

Cemetery Details

Riverview Memory Gardens

29321 County Rd 424
Defiance, OH 43512

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JAN 4. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1075 Glenwood Ave
Napoleon, OH 43545

Funeral Service

JAN 4. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1075 Glenwood Ave
Napoleon, OH 43545

Interment will be private

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Video*



Rodenberger Funeral Home - January 14 at 10:59 AM

CF

“ So very sorry to learn of the passing of your brother. Please accept my deepest condolences on your loss.



Carol Agler and Family - January 03 at 03:33 PM