Robert W. Gunner,
age 82 of Winona, died Friday, July 24, 2015 at Lake Winona Manor, Winona, MN.

Robert was born December 20, 1932, in Chicago, IL to Charles and Anna (Smith) Gunner. He attended St. John the Baptist Grammar School and graduated from Mount Carmel High School, Chicago, in 1951. He received his Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from Michigan State University in 1955, where he also was a successful wrestler, won three letters and reached the semifinals in the NCAA tournament. Robert obtained his MA from Michigan State University in counseling and then a Physical Education doctorate from Indiana State University. He served in the US Air Force for 2 ½ years, obtaining the rank of 1st Lieutenant and spent most of his duty in Nome, Alaska. On August 22, 1959 he married Rosemary Kauffman in Snyder, NY and this marriage was blessed with five children. Rosemary passed away on January 8, 1998. He later married Lorraine Page on October 12, 2001.

Robert taught one year of high school before heading to Michigan Technological University where he was head wrestling coach and assistant football coach. He then took a Physical Education teaching position at Winona State University from 1962 to July 1997. During his tenure at Winona State he was a department head; WSU head Wrestling coach from 1962-1969, where he put WSU on the wrestling map; WSU Assistant football coach from 1962-1964; WSU Head Men’s Tennis Coach from 1971-1990; and was elected into the Winona State University Hall of Fame on October 7, 1995. After retiring he became Professor of Emeritus at Winona State University.

He is survived by his second wife Lorraine Gunner, Winona; five children: Valerie (Randy) Moyer, Iowa City, IA; Christine (Guy) West, Castle Rock, CO; Diane (Todd) Wood, Fort Leavenworth, KS; David Gunner, Spanaway, WA; and Nancy (John) Hammond, Sioux Falls, SD; a twin brother Richard (Munci) Gunner, Alhambra, CA; nine grandchildren: Erik Moyer, Matt (Toni) West, Lauren West, James West, Robert Wood, Richard Wood, Ryan Wood, Michael Hammond and Sarah Hammond; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; first wife Rosemary Gunner; and a sister Anna Marie Pikowitz.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 AM Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Winona with Rev. James Berning officiating. Interment will be at St. Mary’s Cemetery, Winona. Military burial rites will be provided at the church by the Leon J Wetzel American Legion Post 9, Winona. Visitation will be 6 to 8 PM Tuesday, July 28, at Fawcett Junker Funeral Home, Winona and parish prayers will begin at 7:30 PM at the funeral home on Tuesday. Visitation will begin at 9:30 AM Wednesday at St. Mary’s Catholic Church. Services entrusted to Fawcett Junker Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Winona, MN and Fountain City, WI. Words of sympathy or remembrance may be left at www.fawcett-junkerfuneralhome.com.