

## Walter K. Mahlberg, 53

**Defiance** — Walter Kenneth Mahlberg, son of Joseph and LaVera Downey Mahlberg, was born in Panama on March 16, 1926. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's church in Panama. He attended St. Mary's school and grew to adulthood in Panama. After graduating from St. Mary's high school in 1944, he entered the Navy and served until May of 1946 when he received his honorable discharge and returned to Shelby county, settling in Defiance where he worked for Don Goetz Trucking for several years. Walter later operated a gas station at Manning for eight years and then moved back to Defiance where he worked for the city in the Public Works Dept. In 1976 he started working for the Harlan Community school system but retired after a year due to ill health.

On March 14, 1976, he married Velma Muell Clark in Mo. Valley. They made their home in Defiance and this has been their home since that time. Walter died

at Myrtue Memorial hospital in Harlan, on Friday, Oct. 12, 1979, at age of 53 years, six months and 26 days. He had been a long time member of St. Peter's church in Defiance. He was also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 6256 of Logan.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Maxine Gross. Survivors include his wife, Velma, of Defiance; three brothers - Joseph Mahlberg of Earling and Mike and Peter Mahlberg, both of Panama; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Peter's church in Defiance, on Monday, Oct. 15, 1979, with Msgr. John McIlhon as celebrant. Military Rites were conducted at the graveside by the American Legion Post No. 601 of Panama. Burial was in St. Mary's cemetery, Panama, with Jim, Joe, Dave, Kelly, Randy and Darrell Mahlberg serving as pallbearers.

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