

Clement Arkfeld, 84

July 18, 1922 - Nov. 17, 2006

PANAMA — Clement "Clem" George Arkfeld, son of George and Mary (Siemer) Arkfeld, was born in Panama, July 18, 1922. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama. He attended St. Mary's Grade School and graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1940. Clem's early years included work on the farm with his father and helping drill wells. His job with the well drilling business was to ride the horse that provided the power to drill. As time went on, Clem formed the company "Clem Arkfeld and Sons."



Clem married Mildred Schmitz Aug. 26, 1943, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. To this union 10 children were born. After his marriage, he continued in the well drilling business, adding new labor saving equipment to the process. This equipment included trenchers, back hoes, plumbing supplies, a new well machine to replace the horse and later a hydraulic machine with larger buckets. The business today serves a large part of Southwest Iowa and is operated by third generation family members. In 1980, he took over his uncle Ben's house moving business. In his younger years, he played basketball and baseball and later coached. He served Panama as mayor. He was a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church of Panama, Third Degree Earling Council Knights of Columbus No. 1741, Luke E. Hart General Assembly Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus and its Chalice Club. He died Nov. 17, 2006, at Little Flower Haven at age 84 years, three months and 30 days.

Clem is preceded in death by his parents; his brothers and sisters, Archbishop Leo Arkfeld, Florence Ohlinger, Vince Arkfeld and Lucille Arkfeld. He is survived by his wife, Mildred "Mick" Arkfeld of Panama; his children, Janet (Ralph) Kwapiszeski of Overland Park, KS; Edmund Arkfeld (Shirley) of Omaha, NE; Diane (Al) Vandenberg of Council Bluffs; Richard Arkfeld (Mary Kay) of Panama; Mary Lou (Bill) Dewhurst of El Dorado Hills, CA; Gene Arkfeld (Mary Ann) of Colorado Springs, CO; Brian Arkfeld (Mary) of Westphalia; Vivian (Michael) Cairney of Earlville; Jayme Arkfeld (Shirley) of Panama; and Sandy Thompson of Chandler, AZ; 32 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; brother and sisters, Sally Kohles of Harlan, Rita (John) Kelly of Woodbine, Sylvia (Jerry) Bissen of Earlving, and George Arkfeld (Josephine) of Oceanside, CA; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Nov. 21, 2006, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama with Rev. John Dorton celebrant. Honorary casket bearers were Lindsey Arkfeld and Melissa Arkfeld with Brad Kwapiszeski, Mike Arkfeld, Steve Cairney, Dave Arkfeld, Bob Dewhurst, Jesse Thompson, Paul Vandenberg and Jared Arkfeld casket bearers. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery, Panama. Pauley Jones Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.