

Joseph Bexten, 77

July 10, 1922 - July 7, 2000

MANILLA - Joseph Henry, son of Henry E. and Louise Struempf Bexten, was born July 10, 1922, at Rich Fountain, MO. He attended grade school in Rich Fountain. In February of 1944, he enlisted in the United States Army. During World War II, he served overseas with an artillery unit. After receiving his honorable discharge in May of 1946, Joe returned to Rich Fountain. In 1947, he moved to Iowa and worked as a farmhand.

Sept. 11, 1950, he married Stella L. Kloewer at St. Peter's Church in Defiance. He continued to work as a farmhand while they made their home near Portsmouth, Defiance, Dunlap and Battle Creek. They moved to the Manilla area in 1966. He then began working at Farmland in Denison. In 1980, they moved into Manilla and in 1985 he retired from Farmland. He was a member of Sacred Heart Church in Manilla, The Holy Name Society and the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Manning. July 7, 2000, he suffered a heart attack and died while on his daily walk in Manilla, at age 77 years, 11 months and 27 days of age.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by four infant children; four brothers, George, John, Steve and Alfred Bexten; a sister, Julia Bexten; and a grandson, Robbie Freund. He is survived by his wife, Stella Bexten of Manilla; nine children, Jerry Bexten (Karen) of Omaha, NE; Jim Bexten (Hilde) of Woodbine; Annie (Tim) Knoblauch of Urbandale; Mary (Mike) Freund of Denison; Rose (Brett) Rold of Brayton; Joan (Jon) Guthmiller of Hutchinson, MN; John Bexten (Mary Ellen) of Manilla; Patricia (Mark) Mebruer of Rich Fountain, MO; Jeff Bexten of Dannebrough, NE and his friend, Misty Nilson of Kearney, NE 28 grandchildren; two sisters, Betty (Frank) Welschmeyer of Freeburg, MO and Marie Bexten of Rich Fountain, MO; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Mass of Christian Burial was held July 10, 2000, at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Manilla, with Father Robert Gralapp and Father Joseph Welschmeyer concelebrating. Burial was in the Mount Olivet Cemetery, Manilla, with military honors by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3517 of Manning and Post 132 of the American Legion, Manilla. Casket bearers were Adam Bexten, Josh Lahr, Tim Bexten, Aaron Bexten, Jeremy Lahr, Stephen Bexten, Joseph Mebruer, Andrew Bexten, Mike Bexten, Simon Knoblauch and Lucas Mebruer. Casket borne by the family. Arrangements by the family.