

## Leo Bieker, 78

*Aug. 31, 1925 - Nov. 5, 2003*

**HARLAN** — Leo Henry Bieker, son of Henry V. and Blanche (Keairnes) Bieker, was born Aug. 31, 1925, in Defiance. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Peter's Church in Defiance and attended and graduated from St. Paul's Catholic School in Defiance. After school, Leo entered the United States Navy June 2, 1944, and served his country honorably until his discharge May 28, 1946.

June 28, 1948, he married Mildred Heese at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. Seven children were born to this union. After their marriage, they made their home in Earling where Leo farmed for five years then was self employed as a carpenter and contractor before owning his own hardware store in Earling. His work included many of the store fronts in Earling. He retired due to his health in 1978, and later moved to Harlan. Over the years, Leo was a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance, St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, St. Mary's Catholic Church in Portsmouth and St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. He was an active member of the Earling Council No. 1741, Knights of Columbus, American Legion Post No. 615 of Earling and Shelby County VFW Post No. 941. Leo died Nov. 5, 2003, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 78 years, two months and five days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Ed Bieker. Leo is survived by his wife, Mildred "Mick" Bieker of Harlan; his children, Mary (Dale) Fledderman of Fremont, NE; Terry Bieker (Tec) of Des Moines; Jim Bieker (Sharon) of Harlan; Cindy (Dan) Sommer of Papillion, NE; Jack Bieker (Susan) of Phoenix, AZ; June (John) Swiercek of Omaha, NE; Mike Bieker (Michelle) of Fremont; 33 grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; sisters, Dorothy Stenzel of Plainfield, IL; Irene Hansen of Harlan; sister-in-law, Helen Bieker of Harlan; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 8, 2003, at St. Michael's Catholic Church with Rev. Robert Hoefler celebrant. Military rites were conducted in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Earling, by the American Legion Post No. 615 of Earling. Casket bearers were Tim Bieker, Brent Sommer, Ben Bieker, Troy Bieker, Matt Sommer, Nick Bieker and Adam Bieker. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

