

Edgar Blum, 97

Jan. 23, 1910 - Oct. 31, 2007

EARLING - Edgar Joseph Blum was born Jan. 23, 1910, to John and Elizabeth (Ruschenberg) Blum in Defiance. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. He attended country schools and the school in Defiance. He went on to Coyne Electrical School in Chicago and graduated in 1931. After completing his education, Edgar worked with George Rosman wiring farmsteads.



Edgar married Helen Doan of Dow City, July 31, 1939, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. Five children were born to this union: Marilyn, Linda, Kenneth, Keith, and Cynthia. After their marriage, Edgar farmed in the Earling area and became a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling and remained a member there for over 60 years. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 1741. In past years, he and Helen often entertained the residents at Little Flower Haven Nursing Home in Earling by playing guitar and singing. After Edgar retired from farming, he drove a school bus for nine years. The family moved into Earling in 1965 where he held many offices including councilman, treasurer, and mayor. He was admitted to Little Flower Haven March 15, 2000, where he died Oct. 31, 2007, at age 97 years, nine months, and eight days.

In addition to his parents, Edgar was preceded in death by his brothers and sisters, Rev. Victor Blum, Rev. Virgil Blum, Sister M. Roselle Blum, O.S.F., Leander "Jim" Blum, Cyril Blum, LaVern Blum, Ermin Blum, Edwin Blum, and Mary Ann Wilwerding. He is survived by his wife, Helen, being married to her for 68 years; his children, Marilyn (Jack) Munchrath of Omaha, NE; Linda Freund-Ebbinga (Bill) of Griswold; Kenneth Blum (Connie) of Shawnee, KS; Keith Blum (Tatyana) of Shawnee, KS; and Dr. Cindy Schneider of Mobile, AL; 20 grandchildren; 40 great-grandchildren; his brother, Reno Blum (Ethel) of Ralston, NE; his sister, Delores Kaufman of Harlan; one brother-in-law, Joe Wilwerding of Omaha, NE; two sisters-in-law, Loretta Blum of Omaha, and Joan Blum of Placerville, CA; nieces and nephews; and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Nov. 3, 2007, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, with Rev. Tom Coenen officiating. Honorary casket bearers were David Freund, Kyle Munchrath, Clint Freund, Jeremy Blum, Wesley Blum, and Tom Freund. Casket bearers were Darby McLaren, Brad Munchrath, Stephen Freund, Robb Blum, Greg Munchrath, and Chris Freund. Burial was held at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Earling. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Harlan was in charge of arrangements.