

Harlan, Iowa News Advertiser, Friday May 14, 2004, pg 6-A

Robert Blum, 83 ✓

April 12, 1920 - March 31, 2004

HARLAN – Robert John Blum, the oldest child born to John J. and Gertrude Muell Blum, was born April 12, 1920, in Panama. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama. He was a member of St. Mary's High School graduating class of 1939. Following his graduation, he farmed near Dunlap and Westphalia.

Feb. 3, 1953, Robert married Velma Koster Bromert at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Carroll. He adopted Velma's son, James Robert Bromert, soon thereafter. To this union one daughter, Jane, was born. In 1962, they moved to the family farm near Panama that his grandfather had purchased in 1908. He farmed there until 1982 when he retired, and then he and Velma moved to Harlan. He was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan and a member of the Knights of Columbus Harlan Council No. 3900. Velma died one week prior to their 50th wedding anniversary. Robert died March 31, 2004, at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, at age 83 years, 11 months and 19 days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Velma; and his brother, Donald of Mt. Olive, IL. He is survived by his son, James Blum (Jane) of Spirit Lake; and his daughter, Jane Wagar of Omaha, NE; his grandchildren, Stephanie Crego of Meridan, ID; Robert Blum of Boise, ID; Andrea Morfeld of Omaha, NE; and Bryan Wagar of Hingham, WI; step grandchildren, Tim Curry in the United States Marines; Ashley Rebhuhn of Milford; Bobbie Flaherty and Caroline Hauge of Spirit Lake; two great-grandchildren; two step great-grandchildren; two sisters, Carmen Ratigan of Panama and Dolores Wilkinson of Harlan; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held April 5, 2004, at St. Michael's Catholic Church with Rev. Robert Hoefler celebrating. Casket bearers were Ken Baxter, Michael J. Ratigan, Richard L. Wilkinson, Robert J. Blum, Dean J. Koster and Ronald J. Ratigan. Honorary casket bearer was Kenny Muell. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

