

## Frank Casey, 87

July 23, 1922 - March 3, 2010

**GRISWOLD** — Frank T. Casey, 87, of Atlantic, formerly of Griswold, died Wednesday morning, March 3, 2010 at the Allen House where he was a resident.

Francis Thomas Casey was born southeast of Griswold in Pleasant Township on July 23, 1922, the sixth child of James Patrick and Lulu Irene (Curry) Casey. He was baptized, made his First Holy Communion, and was confirmed in the Catholic Church. He attended rural schools and graduated from Griswold High School in 1940. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII and when he returned home, he farmed.

Frank met an elementary school teacher and started dating. He and Kathryn Ann Mertens were married on December 26, 1949 in SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Defiance. They farmed southeast of Griswold and raised their family. Kathryn died March 9, 1982, and Frank continued to live on the farm until 2006 when he



moved to the Griswold Assisted Living. On October 2, 2009, he moved to the Allen House in Atlantic. Frank was a member of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus, and Griswold American Legion Post #508. In his younger days he was a licensed pilot and owned his own airplanes, his first being a Veronica-Champion. He enjoyed eating at Dusty's and playing cards in the afternoon, but most of all he enjoyed his family. His life could be summed up in the words, "Faith, Family, Friends, Flying, and Farming."

Preceding Frank in death were his parents; his wife, Kathryn; and his brothers, Carl, Earl, and Joe all of Griswold; and his sister Marie Sullivan of Corning. Survivors include his five children, Kathy Graeve of Neola; Patrick and wife Elsa of Griswold; Mary and husband Rick Harlan of Atlantic; Peggy and husband Dr. Charles Harper of Duluth, GA; and Lee and wife Dawn Marie of Grand Island, NE; his 14 grandchildren and 1 great granddaughter are (Kathy's) Kathryn Graeve and Kristin and her husband Jarad Zimmerman of Bellevue, NE; (Pat's) Claire, Diedre, and Linnea Casey of Griswold; (Mary's) Crystal Honores of New York, Jesse and wife Emilie Harlan and daughter Rylee of Atlantic, and Casey and husband Andrew Bozarth of Springfield, MO; (Peggy's) Kelsey, Allison, and Christopher Harper of Duluth, GA; and (Lee's) Nick, Daniel, and Julianna Casey of Grand Island, NE. Also surviving are Frank's brothers, Bill and wife Marie of Griswold; Dr. Don and wife Dr. LaDeane of Paradise Valley, AZ; and his sister Anabel Fryer of Villisca. He is also survived by sister-in-law Ellen Rosmann of Harlan, sister-in-law Virginia Thomas and husband Richard of Scottsdale, AZ, brother-in-law Bob Mertens and wife Jeanette of Fonda, as well as several nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. He is also survived by his special friend, Leola Pendgraft of Oakland.

A wake was held Friday evening on March 5, 2010, at the Duhn Funeral Home in Griswold. The Divine Mercy Chaplet was prayed at 7:00 and led by Kathy Graeve. The Sorrowful mysteries of the Rosary were then led by Rev. Dean Nimerichter. Following this "Amazing Grace," "Irish Blessing" and "Far Side Banks of Jordan" were sung. Sharing followed with reflections, memories, and special stories about Frank. Holy cards of Jesus in the Divine Mercy were given out as well as folders for the Rosary and song sheets. A Mass of Christian burial was held on First Saturday of the month, March 6, 2010, at 10:30 a.m. at "Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church" in Griswold. This was significant as Frank had great devotion to the Blessed Mother and her Rosary. Celebrants included Fr. Dean Nimerichter of the Creighton Retreat Center and Fr. Kizito from St. Thomas More Parish in Omaha, NE where Kathy teaches music. Musicians at the Mass included Elsa Casey, organist, Kathy Graeve, guitarist, Linnea Casey, flutist, and Kristin Zimmerman, soloist. Musical selections included, "How Great Thou Art," "I am the Resurrection and the Life," "On Eagles Wings," "Ave Maria," "O Loving God", and "Song of Farewell". Lectors included Mary Harlan and Peggy Harper. The readings included Isaiah 43:1-3 and Romans 8:21-39. The gospel was taken from John 14:1-6. Eucharist ministers were Dawn Marie Casey and Mary Harlan. Prayers of the faithful were read by Rick Harlan and Dr. Charles Harper. Offertory gifts and roses for the Blessed Mother were carried up by the grandchildren. Pall bearers included

Jesse Harlan, grandson; Ed Casey, nephew; Mike Casey, nephew; Chris Harper, grandson; Greg Casey, nephew; and Ron Rosmann, nephew.

Interment took place immediately following the Mass at the Pleasant Township Cemetery just south of Griswold. Military rites were conducted by American Legion Post #508. Lunch was served in the church basement by the ladies of the parish and catered by "Dusty's".

## DUHN FUNERAL HOME

300 Main St.  
Griswold, IA  
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