

Donald Joseph Coenen, 79

Sept. 6, 1938 - Aug. 31, 2018

DEFIANCE – Donald Joseph Coenen was born on September 6, 1938 on a farm between Defiance and Irwin to Carl and Margaret (Kimmen) Coenen.

In 1942, his family moved to Dunlap where they lived for two years until they moved to a farm a mile south of Defiance.

Don attended St. Paul's School in Defiance for 12 years graduating in May 1956. The following October, he enlisted in the U. S. Army and spent 16 months in Korea.

He was released from active duty in 1958 and after another four years, he received his discharge.

In 1959, Don married Jacqueline (Jackie) Churchman. To this union, three daughters were born: Julia (Michael) Smallwood, Deb Hindmarsh, And Connie (Drew) Alexander.

After getting out of the Army, Don worked for the Earl May store for three and one-half years.

He started working at the U. S. Post Office in 1962. He retired in 1992 after 30 years retiring as Postmaster for the last eight years.

After retirement, Don and Jackie were snowbirds, wintering in Las Vegas and Arizona. In 2005, they settled in Mohave Valley, AZ where they lived until 2013 when they returned to Harlan to live their remaining years. Don and Jackie enjoyed traveling both in the states and abroad. Don was quite an avid gardener which he learned from his mother at a very early age.

Don died Friday, August 31, 2018. Don was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Delbert and Charles; sisters, Wilma Rogers, Marian Barry, Norma Hansen, and Connie Petty.

Don is survived by his wife Jackie, daughters: Julia (Michael) Smallwood, Shawnee, KS; Deb Hindmarsh, Omaha, NE; and Connie (Drew) Alexander, Royal Palm Beach, FL; grandchildren: Josh Christensen, Omaha, NE; Adam (Erin) Christensen, Lees Summit, MO; Jill Göcken (John), Omaha, NE; Jared Hindmarsh, Omaha, NE; Connor Alexander, Royal Palm Beach, FL; Blake Alexander, Royal Palm Beach, FL; great-granddaughters Aurora Christensen and Caroline Christensen; sisters, Marge Rosenthal, Omaha, NE and Ellen (Dennis) Dotzler, Omaha, NE.

A memorial mass was held September 6, 2018, at 11 a.m., at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan with visitation one hour prior to the service.

