

LeRoy Grote, 85

Oct. 30, 1929 - Dec. 25, 2014

EARLING — LeRoy Henry Grote was born on October 30, 1929 to William and Julia (Lustgraaf) Grote in Neola. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Neola. The family moved to Portsmouth in 1935 where LeRoy graduated with the Class of 1947 from St. Mary's Catholic School.

September 18, 1950, LeRoy was united in marriage to Betty Schaben at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. They became parents to seven children: William, Daniel, Sandra, JoAnn, Debra, Lorraine, and Allan. LeRoy farmed near the Defiance



area until 1971 when he became a hail adjuster for Farmers Mutual Hail Company of Iowa. He spent thirty-seven years in the insurance industry, becoming an agent in 1976 and owning his own agency. They have lived on the family farm since purchasing it from Betty's parents in 1973. He enjoyed classic cars, especially driving his 1929 Ford Model A. He obtained his pilot's license, loved to fly his Cessna 172, and was a member of the 8 Ball Flying Club. He also loved traveling with his wife. In 1948, LeRoy became a member of the Knights of Columbus Earling Council No. 1741. He served as a Grand Knight and was a member 4th Degree since 1979. LeRoy died on Thursday, December 25, 2014 at Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan, having attained the age of eighty-five years, one month, and twenty-five days.

LeRoy was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Fredrick, James, and Thomas Grote; and grandson Nicholas Klindt. He is survived by his wife of sixty-four years Betty Grote of Earling; his children: Bill Grote and his wife Jane of Council Bluffs, Dan Grote and his wife Shirley of Earling, Sandy and her husband Tom Walker of Harlan, JoAnn and her husband Don Bruck of Earling, Deb and her husband Dick Koesters of Council Bluffs, Lorraine Grote of Omaha, NE, and Allan Grote and his wife Jackie of Boise, ID; twenty-one grandchildren; brothers Robert Grote of Portsmouth and Raphael Grote and his wife Margaret of Dunlap; sister Hilary and her husband Pete Gaul of Melbourne, FL; other family members and friends.

The 10:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Rev. Urey Mark on Monday, December 29, 2014 at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. Interment was held at the St. Joseph's Cemetery in Earling, with Bill Grote, Dan Grote, Allan Grote, Don Bruck, Tom Walker and Dick Koesters serving as casket bearers.

*Pauley
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