

Ambrose Gubbels, 81

March 9, 1925 - Jan. 30, 2007

HARLAN — Ambrose Nicholas Gubbels was born March 9, 1925, to Peter and Clara (Bock) Gubbels on a farm near Westphalia. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia where he remained a member until 1984. Ambrose attended St. Boniface Catholic School in Westphalia. In April of 1945, Ambrose enlisted in the United States Army and served as a surgical technician in the Asian Pacific Theater, earning several ribbons and medals before his discharge in December of 1946. He then started farming.



In 1953, Ambrose married Rita Goeser. Six children were born to this union, Kathy, Jean, Charlene, Brian, Bob, and Scott. Ambrose farmed near Westphalia until he retired in 1984, when he moved to Harlan. He became a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan and remained a member there for 23 years. After his retirement, he worked for Farm Service Co-Op in Defiance and at Hy-Vee in Harlan. He was a past member of the Defiance American Legion as well as a current member of the Harlan American Legion. He served on the parish council and as a parish trustee in Westphalia, on the Westphalia and Defiance school boards, Westphalia Co-Op Board of Directors, and the Westphalia Volunteer Fire Department. He spent close to nine years on dialysis, even though lasting five years was considered beating the odds. He died at Creighton University Medical Center Jan. 30, 2007 at age 81 years, 10 months, and 21 days.

Ambrose was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers. He is survived by his wife, Rita of Harlan; his children, Kathy (Will) Schafer of Panama; Jean (Jim) Keane of Panama; Charlene (Dan) Lefeber of Portsmouth; Brian (Pam) Gubbels of Harlan; Bob (Jodi) Gubbels of Defiance; Scott (Dianne) Gubbels of Council Bluffs; sister-in-law Catherine Gubbels of Harlan, one brother, Cyril (Therese) Gubbels of Council Bluffs; sisters, Sabina (Eldred) Conrad of Harlan; Sylvia Goeser of Westphalia; Virginia (Cletus) Lickteig of Denison; Helen (Dwight) Wubbenhorst of Mesa, AZ; and Mary Ann (Francis) Koesters of Earling; 12 grandchildren; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Feb. 2, 2007, at St. Michael's Catholic Church with Rev. Bob Hoefler officiating. Casket bearers were Paul Keane, Ryan Lefeber, Matt Gubbels, Craig Gubbels, Cletus Gubbels, Bruce Goeser, Jeremy Kruse, and Bob Lickteig. Burial was in St. Boniface Cemetery in Westphalia with military graveside rites by the Harlan American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.