

Francis Heese, 76

Sept. 18, 1934 - July 2, 2011

EARLING — Francis Henry Heese was born on September 18, 1934 to Frank and Estella (Wieland) Heese in Earling. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. He attended St. Joseph's Catholic School and graduated with the Class of 1954.



September 2, 1961, Francis was united in marriage to Mary Alice Kramer at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. Six children were born to this union: Pam, Frank, Vicki, Shelli, Joe, and Scott. Francis was drafted into the United States Army and served for two years during the Korean War. After his honorable discharge from the service, he returned to Earling and began his lifetime farming career. He also spent some time as an Otille seed salesman. He was a member and former commander of the Earling American Legion Post No. 615 and a third degree Knights of Columbus Earling Council No. 1741. Francis served on the St. Joseph's parish council, building committee, and did lots of volunteer work for the parish and his community. He was an avid sports fan, cheering on the Chicago Cubs, Iowa Hawkeyes, and the Harlan Community Cyclones as well as the Earling town teams. He was the manager for the Earling town team basketball tournaments and served as a youth baseball and basketball coach. He was also a member of the Shelby County Pork Producers and served as director. He loved animals and was an avid gardener. He enjoyed painting hay bales, Mary's cooking, and having visits from his kids and grandkids. Francis died on Saturday, July 2, 2011, at Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan, having attained the age of seventy-six years, nine months, and fourteen days.

Francis was preceded in death by his parents; his sisters: Margaret "Mag" Book, Estella Rannells, Therese Swanson, and Madonna Heese; and brother Joseph Heese. He is survived by his wife of nearly fifty years Mary Alice Heese of Earling; his children: Pam and her husband Brian Gubbels of Harlan, Frank Heese and his wife Shari of Harlan, Vicki and her husband Loren Jorgenson of Omaha, NE, Shelli and her husband Larry Schaben of Earling, Joe Heese and his wife Denise of Earling, and Scott Heese and his wife Jennifer of Bennington, NE; nineteen grandchildren; sisters Marie Blum of Earling, and Leona Sondag of Portsmouth; brothers-in-law Mel Book of Earling and Francis Rannells of Dunlap; other family members and many friends.

Rev. Chris Fontanini celebrated the 2:00 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial on Tuesday, July 5, 2011 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. Honorary Casket Bearers were Larry F. Schaben, Diane Thieman, Loren Jorgenson, Shari Heese, Don Kramer, Brian Gubbels, De-

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nise Heese, Jennifer Heese, Gene Fuhs, and Patty Corey. Serving as casket bearers were Matthew Gubbels, Christopher Schaben, Brevan Jorgenson, Jamie Swanson, Tyler Schaben, Rick Rannells, Denny Book, and Jeff Blum. Military Rites were held by the Earling American Legion Post No. 615 at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Earling.

Jones

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