

Francis C. Henkelman, 76

May 31, 1925 - Jan. 13, 2002

DEFIANCE – Francis Clement Henkelman, son of Francis and Ann (McCaffery) Henkelman, was born May 31, 1925, in Manila. He was baptized at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Manila, and confirmed at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. He attended school at St. Paul's Catholic School in Defiance, and later obtained his high school diploma through Iowa Western Community College.

June 4, 1944, he married Mary Jane Culotta in Lockport, LA. Five children were born to this union. After their marriage, they moved to Defiance, which has been their home ever since. He served with the Americal Division in the Philippines in World War II. After his honorable discharge, he returned to Defiance. He purchased 500 bee hives from Old Taylor Bee Company. He also was a bus driver for many years. He was a member of the American Beekeeping Federation, Iowa Honey Producers and Southwest Iowa Honey Producers and the Sioux Honey Association where he was honored as the Member of the Year in 1989. He has served as president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer with the Southwest Iowa Honey Producers. He was also very active in his community. He served two terms as Mayor from 1964 to 1968, he initiated the Defiance Sewer System, a member of the Defiance City Council, a Scout Master for three years, vice-president of the Holy Name Society for two years, a member of the American Legion Post No. 707, serving as Commander and County Commander. He died Jan. 13, 2002, at his home in Defiance, at age 76 years, seven months and 13 days.

Francis was preceded in death by his parents; two children, Francis and Ann; and his brothers and sister, Harold, Ray and Ardith. Survivors include his wife, Mary Jane of Defiance; his children, Dan Henkelman (Barbara) of Omaha, NE; Ruth Henkelman of Harlan; Clem Henkelman (Connie) of Defiance; 17 grandchildren, Julie (Ron), Nicki, Chris, Kate, Julie (Todd), Gina (Tim), Megan (Jason), Fred (Mandy), Donna, Jenny, T.J. (Jamie), Deanna, Frances, Tammy, Adam, Alicia and Heather; 13 great grandchildren, Alex, Ben, Emily, Delaney, Andrew, Olivia, Alora, Rebecca, Ashlee, Haley, Blake, Cali Jo and Kyanna; sisters, Mary (LaVern) Schmitz of Defiance; Loretta (Joe Ray) Kenkel of Dunlap; Dorothy (Max) Kenkel of Earling; Agnes (Jay) Menze of Warrenburg, MO; his in-laws, Antoinette Culotta, Anna Culotta, Ruth Culotta, Frank Culotta (Mary), Phillip Culotta (Marie), Sarah (Wilton) Vedros, and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Jan. 16, 2002, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance, with Rev. Michael Berner celebrant. Military rites were conducted in Sts. Peter & Paul Cemetery in Defiance, by the American Legion Post No. 707 of Defiance and Westphalia with Todd Koca, Bill Schaben, Tim Galpin, Ed Schmitz, Jason Caul and Tim Kenkel casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

