

Ernest Katzer, 63

May 17, 1939 – June 2, 2002

BENNINGTON, NE – Ernest L. Katzer was born May 17, 1939, to Alma (Pauley) and John J. Katzer on a farm near Portsmouth, where he was baptized at St. Mary's Catholic Church. He later celebrated his first communion and confirmation there, too. He attended school at St. Mary's from 1946 to 1950. His family moved to Defiance, and he graduated from St. Paul's High School with the class of 1957. In February 1960, he joined the United States Army serving most of the next two years on active duty in Korea. He received his honorable discharge in April 1962. That fall, he attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha, graduating Summa Cum Laude 4 years later with a B.S. degree in accounting. He passed his C.P.A. requirements, and was employed with various accounting firms in Omaha, NE. Several years later, he returned to graduate school earning his Law degree from Creighton University Law School.

June 5, 1989, he married Phyllis Anderson in Omaha. Most recently, he has been a self-employed C.P.A. with his office in Bennington, NE and his home in rural Bennington. He was a member of the American Legion in Bennington. He battled cancer since April 6, 2002. He died June 2, 2002, at Clarkson Hospital in Omaha, NE, at age 63 years, 16 days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Larry Katzer; his sister, Rita Katzer, and his wife, Phyllis. He is survived by his siblings, Eugene Katzer, Omaha, NE; Marge (Jim) Trierweiler, Denison; Mary Fleming, Fountain Valley, CA; Roman Katzer, Atlantic and Marvin Katzer, Brea, CA; three nieces, three nephews and other relatives and special friend and companion, Helen Goranson of Omaha.

Funeral services were held June 6, 2002, at the West Center Chapel, Omaha, with Deacon Ralph J. Tharp officiating. A Mass of Christian Burial was held June 7, 2002, at St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, Portsmouth, with Father Paul Bianchi celebrating. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery with full military honors by Portsmouth John Ohlinger American Legion Post #547. Casket bearers were James Freml, Jerry Sweet, Douglas Schmidt, Darrell Logemann, Mike Doyle and Paul Hanson. Heafy-Heafy-Hoffmann, Dworak and Cutler West Center Chapel in charge of arrangements.