

Donald J. Kohles, 75

July 12, 1925 - March 18, 2001

EARLING – Donald Jacob Kohles was born July 12, 1925, to Theresia E. (Wilwerding) and John O. Kohles on a farm near Earling. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, and attended school at St. Joseph's Catholic School. Don grew to adulthood on the farm and remained a farmer his entire life.

Dec. 15, 1950, he was drafted into the United States Army and served in Korea. He was honorably discharged having achieved the rank of corporal Dec. 11, 1952. Following his discharge, he returned to the Earling area to continue his farming operation. He was a lifelong member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. In addition, he also was a 3rd Degree Knights of Columbus No. 1741 of Earling, and the Luke E. Hart General Assembly 4th Degree Knights of Columbus No. 1045 of Defiance, and its Chalice Club. He died March 18, 2001, at his farm on the Earling Road at age 75 years, eight months and five days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Rita; his brother, Kenneth; and his sister-in-law, Betty Kohles. He is survived by his brothers, James Kohles of Harlan; Dennis Kohles (Joanne) of Earling; and Julius "Dewey" Kohles (Joanne) of Parker, CO; sisters, Marie Kohles of Earling and Ruth (Ronald) Nollen of Westphalia; his sister-in-law, Agnes Kohles of Princeton, NJ; his fiancée, Lavina Gross of Earling; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated March 23, 2001, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, with the Rev. Michael Berner celebrant and the Rev. Kenneth Gross concelebrant. Military rites were conducted in the St. Joseph's Cemetery by the American Legion Post No. 615 of Earling. Casket bearers were Jack Kohles, Gerald Kohles, Alan Kohles, Terry Kohles, Dave Kohles, Glen Kohles, Dale Kohles and Danny Kohles. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

