

Ambrose (Amby) J. Kommes, 81

Sept. 28, 1916 - Feb. 27, 1998 ✓

EXIRA - Ambrose (Amby) J. Kommes, son of Frank and Elizabeth Wilmes Kommes, was born Sept. 28, 1916 in Exira, and died Feb. 27, 1998, at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Omaha, NE, at age 81 years, four months and 29 days. He was baptized and confirmed at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Exira. He attended Exira Community Schools graduating in 1937. Amby then was employed as a mechanic for B.J. Baker Chevrolet Garage in Exira until May 2, 1942, when he enlisted in the United States Army. During his tour of duty he served with the 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion. He spent 42 months on the front line in battles at Tunisia, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Aero, Rhineland and Central Europe Campaign. While in the service he received the Victory Medal, European, African, Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, the Silver and Bronze Stars, 5 overseas service bars, service stripes, Good Conduct Medal and Meritorious Unit Award. He was honorably discharged Oct. 31, 1945, at Ft. Sheridan, IL. She returned to Exira and worked for Minerman Ford for a short time.

June 23, 1947, he married Geraldine Ada Anstey at St. Timothy Catholic Church in Cumberland. Two children, James Paul Kommes and Jerlyn Cathy Kommes, were born to this union. He then worked for Stone Chevrolet then purchased the business in 1967. He operated Amby's Garage and Body Shop until he retired in 1989. He was a member of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Exira and served as trustee. He was a member of the Exira Fire Department, the American Legion, Exira Community Club and the "E" Club. He was an active fan for the Exira Athletic Programs and ran the chain for the Exira High School football program, missing one game in 42 years.

Preceding him in death were his parents; his sister, Valissa Kommes; his nephew, Douglas Kommes; and his sister-in-law, Elaine Kommes. Survivors include his wife, Geraldine Kommes of Exira; his children, James Kommes of Exira and Jerlyn (Bob) Ewing of Avoca; his grandchildren, Jamie Buckholdt; Catherine (Colburn) Warner and Bryan Ambrose Buckholdt all of Harlan; Isaac Kommes and Chelsi Kommes of Exira; his great grandchildren, Zackery Kommes of Audubon and Hannah Warner of Harlan; his sister, Bernice (Robert) Robinson of Exira; his brother, Tony Kommes of Exira; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Father John Maier March 3, 1998, at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Exira. Burial was in the Holy Trinity Catholic Cemetery in Exira. Military graveside rites were conducted by the Exira American Legion. Honorary casket bearers were Todd Brown, Victor Doonan, Bill Ludwig, Harold Schroeter, Gary Smouse, Joe Strickland, Linus Venteicher and Vernon Venteicher. Casket bearers were Charles Anstey, Larry Anstey, Tom Anstey, Ron Buckholdt, Lavern Kommes and Bill Robinson. Kessler Funeral Home, Exira, in charge of arrangements.