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Lavern Musich, 92

Feb. 5, 1913 - June 23, 2005

WESTPHALIA — Lavern "Vernie" George Musich, the son of Michael and Catherine Schneider Musich, was born Feb. 5, 1913, near Portsmouth. He started school when he was only four years of age at a country school near Westphalia and continued through the eighth grade. He was baptized at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Portsmouth and confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia.

Lavern married Helen Weihs at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama June 3, 1941. They were the parents of 10 children. After their marriage, Vernie worked as a truck driver and farmer. He later drove a bus for Concerned, Inc. and also did some work as a carpenter, retiring in 1978. Vernie was the Westphalia town mayor and water meter technician. He was a member of St. Boniface Catholic Church, Westphalia and the Holy Name Society where he also held a position as an officer. In addition, he was a member of the Credit Union Board of Directors and City Council, Board of Directors of the Westphalia Co-op Association and was an inductee into the Westphalia Athletic Club Hall of Fame. He managed the Midget's ball team. In April 2004, he became a resident of Elm Crest Retirement Community and it was there that he died June 23, 2005, at age 92 years, four months and 18 days.

In addition to his parents, Vernie was preceded in death by his brothers and sisters, Priscilla Schwery, Ray Musich, Marie Langenfeld, Hilda Scott, Mike Musich, Jr., Irene Coenen, Urban Musich and Earl Musich; four grandchildren, Darrin, Dale, James and Jackson Musich. Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Helen, of Westphalia; his children, Dennis Musich (Cheryl) of Harlan; Yvonne (Ken) Willadsen of Council Bluffs; Eldred Musich (Erma) of South Jordan, UT; Phil Musich (Lora) of Johnson City, TN; Mary (Ed) Stephany of Westphalia; Lavern Musich, Jr., (Patricia) of Roosevelt, UT; Thelma (Thomas) Ely of Muscatine; Tom Musich (Kathy) of Harlan; Karen (Randy) Bradley of Council Bluffs; and Deborah (Richard) Hastert of Harlan; 31 grandchildren; 39 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; his sisters, Alice Siebert of Lovington, NM and Helen (Lawrence) Petsche of Harlan; sister-in-law, Viola Musich of Harlan; brother-in-law, Ray Langenfeld of Ute; and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held June 27, 2005, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia concelebrated by Rev. John Dorton and Rev. Robert Hoefler. Burial was in St. Boniface Cemetery in Westphalia with Michelle Musich, Mike Goetz, Elmer Schwery, Jake Hastert, Ed Goeser, Roger Schmitz, Barney Zimmerman, David Musich, Ron Zimmerman, and Marvin Musich honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Jeff Musich, Michael Musich, Tracy Lage, Rebecca Blair, Pete Willadsen, Wil Stephany, Ron Mahlberg, Nick Musich, and Tim Sorensen. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

