

## Thomas E. Obrecht, 51

Dec. 23, 1945 - Dec. 18, 1997

**HARLAN** - Thomas Elliott Obrecht, son of Elliott and Iona (Hansen) Obrecht, was born Dec. 23, 1945, at Harlan. He was baptized and confirmed at the First United Methodist Church in Harlan. He attended country school and graduated from the Harlan High School in 1964. He entered the U.S. Army Oct. 6, 1965 and served until his honorable discharge Oct. 5, 1967.

Aug. 19, 1972, he married Margaret Mary Bruck at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. To this union two children were born, Jennifer Rose and Steven Thomas.

Although he was confined to a wheelchair for the last 12 years of his life, he never stopped working with his hands. Tom was a truck driver prior to being a member of the Harlan Police Department where he served as an officer from 1975 until 1980. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Harlan. He died Dec. 18, 1997, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 51 years, 11 months and 26 days.

In addition to his father, Elliott, he was preceded in death by his daughter, Jennifer Rose Obrecht Sept. 30, 1995, and his stepfather, Clark Playle. Survivors include his wife, Margaret Obrecht of Harlan; his son, Steven Obrecht of Harlan; his mother, Iona Playle of Earling; brother and sisters, Marjorie (Jon C.) House of Penn Valley, CA; Glenyce Wendelin of Harlan; Bill Obrecht (Linda) of Harlan and Lea Obrecht of Glenwood Springs, CO; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 20, 1997, at Pauley Funeral Home with Rev. Paul Wilcox of the First United Methodist Church officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with military rites being conducted by the Harlan American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 and the Shelby County VFW Post No. 941. Honorary casket bearers were Robb Flynn, Raymond Arnold, Josh Bruck, Kent Sievers, Jon C. House, Rom Arkfeld, Dennis Heflin, Jeremy Bruck and Brad McQueen. Casket bearers were Rick Bruck, Quinten Christensen, Eric Bruck, Wayne Bruck, Randy Bruck, Steve Bruck and Dan Martin.