

## Franklin Oppold, 87

*Nov. 10, 1915 - Nov. 17, 2002*

**PANAMA** – Franklin Gregory Oppold was born to Helen "Nell" (Manion) and Franklin S. Oppold Nov. 10, 1915, in Panama. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama. Franklin's mother died when he was nearly five years of age, and he and his father then made their home with his grandparents in Panama. He attended Panama Public School later graduating from St. Mary's High School. Following graduation, Franklin worked with his father in the hardware store which he later purchased.

Aug. 17, 1942, he married Genevieve Stessman at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Missouri Valley. To this union five children were born, Mary Pat, Beth, Alice, Tim and Frank. Following their wedding, Franklin served his country during World War II as a member of the Army Corps of Engineers. After his honorable discharge, he returned to Panama and purchased the Fullerton Lumber Company combining it with the family hardware business. The Oppold family has been a member of the Iowa Retailer Hardware Association since 1916. In 1954, he purchased Harlan Transfer and moved the operation to Panama changing the name to "Panama Transfer". The business was later sold to Jim Kloewer. Later, he purchased the Dunlap Lumberyard which was eventually sold to his son, Frank. While living in Panama, Franklin served as mayor, was a member of the Panama Town Council, served as adjutant of American Legion Post No. 601, and was honored as "Citizen of the Year" by the Panama Community Club in 1971. He was a lifelong member of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church. He died Nov. 17, 2002, at the Dunlap Care Center at age 87 years and seven days.

In addition to his parents, Franklin was preceded in death by an infant sister. He is survived by his wife, Genevieve Oppold of Panama; children, Mary Patricia Leuschen of Omaha, NE; Helen "Beth" Muenchrath of Des Moines; Alice (Earl) West of Ashland, NE; Timothy Oppold of Panama; and Franklin Oppold (Joanne) of Dunlap; 13 grandchildren; four great grandchildren; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 20, 2002, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama, with the Rev. Michael G. Peters celebrant. Military rites were conducted in the St. Mary's Cemetery by American Legion Post No. 601 of Panama, with Allan Bruck, Dick Schwery, Ron Kohles, Bob Huebert, Dan Herbst and Jim Kloewer casket bearers. Paulev Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

