

Earl L. Powers, 75

Nov. 6, 1926 - April 7, 2002 ✓

DEFIANCE – Earl Linus Powers was born to Elsie (Pieper) and Linus L. Powers Nov. 6, 1926, at Vail. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Vail. He was a member of the St. Ann's High School Graduating Class of 1944. Following graduation, he served his country during World War II in the U.S. Navy. He was honorably discharged in 1946, and returned to Iowa where he enrolled at Iowa State University in Ames. He was employed as a Northwest Railroad Telegrapher from 1947 to 1951.

Aug. 18, 1952, Earl married Marcy Sonderman at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. To this union six children were born. Following their wedding, the couple resided in Vail, where he was employed as a bank teller in Westside. From 1957 to 1958, the couple resided in Ralston, NE, where Earl was employed by the Ralston - Papillion Banks. They then moved to Defiance where Earl worked as a manager, president and most recently, Chairman of the Board at Defiance State Bank. He served on the Harlan Community High School Board for 12 years and assisted in the organization and development of the Shelby County Golf Course. He was a member of American Legion Post No. 707 of Defiance and also served as treasurer. An active member of St. Peter's Catholic Church, he served as Lector and CCD Teacher for 12 years. Earl died April 7, 2002, at Bergan Mercy Hospital in Omaha, NE, at age 75 years, five months and one day.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his granddaughter, Megan Ann Powers, and son-in-law, Ronnie Woerdehoff. He is survived by his wife, Marcy Powers of Defiance; his children, Deb Woerdehoff (Dean) Tiefenthaler of Wall Lake; Tom Powers (Robin) of Harlan; Bob Powers (Janice) of Poquoson, VA; Frank Powers (Rhonda) of Defiance; Jean (Phil) Croghan of Panama and Kathy (Joe) Mahlberg of Earling; 12 grandchildren; one great grandchild; one sister, Mary Jane (Marcus) Nepl of Wall Lake; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated April 10, 2002, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance, with the Rev. Michael Berner celebrating. Military rites were conducted by American Legion Post No. 707 of Defiance in Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery with Joe Nepl, Guyle Sonderman, Dan Schulte, Larry Nepl, Troy Sonderman, Todd Tremel and Jeff Sonderman casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

