

Eugene "Gene" Reisz, 45

July 2, 1953 - Sept. 26, 1998

PANAMA - Eugene "Gene" Joseph Reisz was born July 2, 1953, son of Frank and Rita (Schneider) Reisz. He attended school at St. Mary's Catholic Schools in Panama and Portsmouth, graduating from the Harlan Community High School in 1971.

He married Marilyn Taggart July 14, 1973, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Manning. They lived on farms northwest of Panama before moving to town in 1983. He farmed with his father and also helped at his father's business, Panama Fertilizer. In 1979, he became partners with Frank and in 1981, he became sole owner of the business. Later he added L.P. gas to the business. Gene was past president of Panama Community Club, a member of Panama Athletic Association and St. Mary's Parish Council. Through the business he was a member of the Agribusiness Association of Iowa and also Iowa Propane Gas Association. He died at home Sept. 26, 1998, after a five year battle with cancer at age 45.

He was preceded in death by his father, Frank Reisz. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn of Panama; daughters, Mandi of Iowa City and Shayla of Omaha, NE; his mother, Rita Reisz of Panama; brother, Michael Reisz (Sue) of Co. Bluffs; sisters, Mary (Bob) Weis of Woodbine; Barb (Harlan) King of Omaha, NE; Phyllis (Mark) Bishoff of Omaha, NE and Fran (Paul) Kleffman of Portsmouth; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated Sept. 29, 1998, at St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama, with Rev. Paul Bianchi celebrant and Rev. Michael Peters and Rev. Paul Strittmatter concelebrating. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Panama, with Kenneth Pauley, Roman Kloewer, John Henscheid, Melvin Schwery, Don Keane, Mike Mahlberg, Pete Croghan and Jamie Schulte honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Robert Schmitz, Jerry Chamberlain, Dennis Buckley, Dave Schwartz, Neil Woebke and Mark Markham. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.