

**OBITUARY**

**Joseph N. Schmitz, 81**

**Sept. 25, 1912 - May 4, 1994**

**Portsmouth** — Joseph Nicholas Schmitz, son of Peter and Katherine (Windehausen) Schmitz, was born Sept. 25, 1912 in Panama. He died May 4, 1994 at Mercy Hospital in Co. Bluffs at age 81 years, 7 months and 9 days. He attended St. Mary's Catholic School in Panama to the 8th grade. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama. He grew to adulthood on his family's farm.

Sept. 21, 1936, he married Laurina Stracke at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. Seven children were born to this union. For the first seven years of their marriage they lived on a farm northwest of Portsmouth. They then moved to his homeplace in the Panama community until 1974 when they retired and moved into Portsmouth. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Portsmouth. He was a charter member of the organization of Senior Citizens of Panama, was active in TEC, a Catholic Youth Organization and served for many years as an assistant commissioner on soil conservation for Cass Township and was the first president of the board.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father; his brothers and sisters - Louise Pauley, Nicholas Schmitz, Msgr. Peter Schmitz, William and John Schmitz. He is survived by his wife Laurina Schmitz of Portsmouth; his children: Marleen (Jerome) Nabity of Omaha, Kathleen (Orville) Leinen of Harlan, Elizabeth "Betty" (Robert) Anderson of Lincoln, NE, Marietta (Albert) Bellingtier of Fort Dodge, Therese (Michael) Ratigan of Co. Bluffs, Robert (Susan) Schmitz of Panama and Michael (Barbara) Schmitz of Defiance; 25 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren; his brothers and sisters - Sr. Maristelle Schmitz, O.S.B. of



Colorado Springs, CO; Vincent (Delores) Schmitz of Panama; Catherine (Jerome) Croghan and Margaret (Joe) Croghan, both of Manning; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated May 7, 1994 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Portsmouth with Rev. Paul Monahan celebrant. Concelebrating was Msgr. Michael W. Schwarte, Msgr. Edward Kelly, Rev. Mike McLaughlin and Msgr. Robert Chamberlain. Burial was in St. Mary's cemetery in Panama with Pat Schmitz, Mark Anderson, Brian Ratigan, Joseph Schmitz, Jeff Leinen, Kris Anderson and Matt Bellingtier honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Pete Leinen, Gerry Nabity, Doug Bellingtier, Larry Ratigan, Dan Schmitz and Rob Anderson. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.