

Jack Slaven, 73

April 5, 1925 - Sept. 9, 1998

PORTSMOUTH - John Hainley (Jack) Slaven was born April 5, 1925, on a farm east of Persia. His family moved to the Portsmouth area where they were members of Our Lady of Fatima St. Mary's Catholic Church. He was a lifelong member of St. Mary's where he was baptized, received first communion, was confirmed and attended St. Mary's School. He graduated in 1943, and entered the United States Marine Corps where he served during WWII from 1943-1946. After his military service, he returned to the Portsmouth area and began farming.

In 1948, he married Mary Reinig and they had nine children. During their 50 years of marriage, Jack was an active volunteer in the 4-H program, the Catholic Church and the Portsmouth Athletic Association. In 1958, he was one of the founders of the Shelby County Legion Baseball program for PeeWees, Cubs and Midgets and was Commissioner for 20 years. He officiated basketball and baseball games for many years. He was also a member of the Legion Post 547. In 1983 he became the owner of the Rocket Bar and Grill which he and Mary operated until they retired in 1989. He died Sept. 9, 1998, at Little Flower Haven.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Bertha Slaven, and his sisters, Ramona (Michael) Leinen and Loretta (Don) Bristow. He is survived by his wife, Mary Slaven of Portsmouth, and their nine children, John Slaven of Portsmouth; Ann Waller of Papillion, NE; Stan (Dian) Slaven of Portsmouth; Ken Slaven of Portsmouth; Barb and Carol Slaven, both of Bellevue, NE; Cathy (Mark) Assman of Earling; Bill (Dara) Slaven of Portsmouth and Mary (Stuart) De La Castro of Bellevue, NE; 13 grandchildren and his brother, Jim of Omaha.

A memorial mass was held Sept. 12, 1998, at St. Mary's Church. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Portsmouth.

