

Robert Smith, 54

May 18, 1949 - March 21, 2004

MANILLA - Robert John Smith, the son of John Michael and Mary Barbara Bruck Smith, was born May 18, 1949, in Earling. He was baptized at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. Robert received his first holy communion and was confirmed at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. He attended Irwin Community School and after graduation attended Iowa State University for three years.

Robert married Kayleen Suzanne Greer July 11, 1970, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. To this union four children were born, Keith, Mark, Michelle and Robert, Jr. Ever

since he was a young child he always dreamed of being an auctioneer, which he accomplished by attending Felsch School of Auctioneering in Mason City. He was very active in the community and volunteered for numerous auctions and benefits, including the Shelby County Cattleman's and the auction at St. Michael's. He received third runner up at the 1983 Iowa State Fair Auctioneering contest, Shelby County Farm Bureau "Distinguished Service to Agriculture" award in 2003, and the Irwin Fire and Rescue Department Appreciation of Services. Most recently he was employed as a farm equipment salesman at Vetter's Equipment Co. in Audubon. He was also a real estate agent and auctioneer. He was active in 4-H as a child and continued to serve as a 4-H leader for many years. In 1989, he was awarded a Friend of 4-H Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding and dedicated service. In 1997, he received a Certificate For Service as a volunteer in the Shelby County Youth 4-H program. In 2002 Robert and his extended family were awarded the 4-H family award for forty-two consecutive years of service. He was a hog superintendent and an auctioneer for 4-H auctions and announced tractor pulls at the Shelby County Fair. He was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan and the Harlan Council No. 3900 Knights of Columbus. He died March 21, 2004, at his home near Manilla, at age 54 years, 10 months and three days.

His parents preceded Robert in death. He is survived by his wife, Kay, of Manilla; his children, Keith Robert Smith (Jean) of New Providence; Mark Alan Smith of Ankeny; Michelle Lynn (Robert) Klock of Hawarden; and Robert Smith, Jr. of Ames; five grandchildren, Shelby, Tyson, Clayton, Emily and Breanna; brothers and sisters, Patricia (Keith) Schwieso of Defiance; Mike Smith (Lyla) of Irwin; Bill Smith (Sue) of Harlan; Mary Smith of Harlan; Shirley (Kevin) McConnell of Manilla; and John Smith (Tegwyn) of West Des Moines; and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held March 25, 2004, at St. Michael's Catholic Church with Rev. Robert Hoefler celebrant. Honorary casket bearers were Mike Blum, Denny Greer, Kevin McConnell, Paul Steenhusen, Karl Hanson and Robert Klocke. Casket bearers were Bill Smith, Mike Smith, Cyrus Monson, Keith Schwieso, Larry Knudson, Bruce Bruck, John Smith and Verner Hansen. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

