

## Theodore "Ted" J. Sondag, 81

*Oct. 6, 1918 - Dec. 16, 1999*

**PORTSMOUTH** - Theodore Joseph Sondag, son of Joseph and Mary (Hammes) Sondag, was born Oct. 6, 1918, on a farm east of Portsmouth, the third of seven children. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Portsmouth. He attended St. Mary's School in Portsmouth, and was a 1936 graduate of St. Mary's High School. He helped on the family farm and also did farm work in northern Iowa. He attended Iowa State College for a short time before enlisting in the United States Army in 1941. He served his country for five years including 18 months in Europe during World War II, having attained the rank of First Lieutenant.

Feb. 2, 1949, he married Joan Marie Mumm at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. To this union nine children were born, five sons and four daughters. They made their home on a farm near Portsmouth. He worked at Western Iowa Pork in Harlan and at Leinen Hardware in Portsmouth before retiring in 1981. He was a lifelong member of St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth, and active in both church and community organizations. He was a member of the American Legion Post No. 547 in Portsmouth, and a charter member of Knights of Columbus, Portsmouth Council. He died Dec. 16, 1999, at Little Flower Haven at age 81 years, two months and ten days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Marie Sondag, and his brother, Msgr. Joseph Sondag. Survivors include his wife, Joan of Portsmouth; his children, James Sondag (Sandy) of Lathrop, MO; Linda (Tom) Brannan of Littleton, CO; Jeanne (Bob) Rust of Le Mars; Joseph Sondag (Gathie) of Harlan; Kathleen (Steve) Smit of Billings, MT; Susan Sondag of Garner; Jerome Sondag (Nyra) of Persia; Donald Sondag (Angie) of Panama; William Sondag (Lisa) of Portsmouth; 17 grandchildren; one great grandchild; his brothers and sisters, Francis Sondag of Hastings, NE; Suzette Langenfeld of Portsmouth; Richard Sondag (Leona) of Portsmouth; Barbara (Richard) Heller of Portsmouth; and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Dec. 20, 1999, at St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth, with Rev. Paul Bianchi celebrant and Msgr. Edward Kelly concelebrating. Military rites were conducted in St. Mary's Cemetery in Portsmouth by the American Legion Post No. 547, Portsmouth, with Amy Rust, Andrew Brannan, Anne Rust, Cora Smit, Danielle Sondag, Alexis Madsen, Aaron Sondag, Carrie Sondag, Jessica Sondag, Austin Sondag, Jill Sondag and Maggie Sondag honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were James Sondag, Todd Sondag, Andrew Sondag, Ted Brannan, Paul Rust and Joe Brannan. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

