

Merrill Stolz, 95

March 6, 1917 - June 22, 2012

HARLAN — Merrill George Stolz was born on March 6, 1917 to George and Vera (Dougal) Stolz in Panama. He was baptized at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama and was confirmed and had his first communion at St. Peter's in Defiance. He attended Country School and St. Paul's Catholic School in Defiance.

March 29, 1937, Merrill was united in marriage to Marie Erlbacher at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. They had nine children: Eugene, Charlene, JoAnn, Merrill Jr., Gary, Joseph, Diane, Dewayne, and Mary Jane. He farmed his entire life near Defiance and moved to Harlan in 1987 where they made their home after their retirement. Merrill served as

a 4-H leader while his children were in the club. He also served on the County Extension Board and as Secretary and Treasurer of St. Peter's Holy Name Society. Merrill served for a number of years on the Parish Council and was a Faithful Navigator of the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus. Merrill became a resident of Elm Crest Retirement Home in December of 2009 which is where he died on Friday, June 22, 2012, having attained the age of ninety-five years, three months, and sixteen days.

Merrill was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Marie, daughter-in-law Marie Stolz, one grandchild, three great-grandchildren, sisters Veronica Stolz and Delores Tremel, and brothers Mal, Melvin, Allen, Louis, George Jr. and Roman. He is survived by his children: Eugene Stolz and his wife Bernice of Omaha, NE, Charlene and her husband Russell Morfeld of Omaha, JoAnn and her husband Wes Walker of Defiance, Merrill Stolz, Jr. and his wife Elaine of Henderson, NV, Gary Stolz and his wife Arlene of Alpine, CA, Joe Stolz and his wife Julie of Omaha, Diane and her husband Dick Mulligan of Defiance, Dewayne Stolz of Portsmouth, and Mary Jane and her husband Cletus Gubels of Harlan; fifteen grandchildren; twenty-eight great-grandchildren; sisters Lois Koester of Earling and Wilma Mohr of Denison; other family members and friends.

Rev. John Frost celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, June 27, 2012 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. Serving as casket bearers were Eugene Stolz, Merrill Stolz, Jr., Dewayne Stolz, Gary Stolz, Rick Mulligan, Dennis Stolz, Joe Stolz, and Andy Mulligan. Interment was held at Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Defiance.



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