

## Martin "Mert" Anthony Schwarte, 89

June 9, 1928 - Oct. 25, 2017

**WESTPHALIA** – Martin "Mert" Anthony Schwarte, son of William and Mary Ann (Schiltz) Schwarte, was born June 9, 1928 in Westphalia. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia and attended St. Boniface Catholic School through the eighth grade. Mert then went to work with his family on his brother Sylvan's farm. He also spent one summer with his brother, Bill, working at Holy Rosary Indian Mission in South Dakota. Mert also worked for Evans Construction Company putting in light poles for the R.E.A. and Iowa Public around Harlan, Panama, Portsmouth, and Council Bluffs.



After WWII ended, Mert was drafted into the Army 47th Infantry Division in February of 1951. It was a medical company and he was trained as an infantry med aid and was the first Medic to carry a rifle. Mert's rifle training came in handy one year later, when he was made Sergeant and sent to Korea. He served his country honorably until March 7, 1953 and received several awards for his service, including a Medical Badge, Korean Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, and the United Nations Service Medal.

After returning home from his military service, Mert worked for the Union Pacific Railroad as a telephone and telegraph lineman in eight states. He then worked for Knudsen & Brothers as a carpenter, and Omaha Steele, before going to work at Regal Towels until his retirement in 1994.

Mert went to a wedding dance in Iowa where he met "Peggy," a sweet little black-haired girl named Catherine E. Kaufman. He was living in Wyoming at the time, and drove back every single weekend for two years to see her. Mert decided he couldn't live without her and they got married on April 10, 1956 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. To this union, three loving children were born: Randall, Wayne, and Mary Lea. After their wedding, the couple made their home in Shelby County and he worked as a carpenter.

Mert died surrounded by his family on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017 at Rose Vista Retirement Community in Woodbine, attaining the age of 89 years, four months, and 16 days.

In addition to his parents, Mert is preceded in death by his wife Peggy Schwarte; son-in-law Randall Booth; siblings Herman Schwarte, Joseph Schwarte, Msgr. Michael Schwarte, William Schwarte, Sylvan Schwarte, Marie Sullivan, Raymond Schwarte, and Bernice Schwarte.

Left to cherish his memory are his children Randall (Mona) Schwarte of Westphalia; Wayne Schwarte of Earling; Mary Lea Booth of Westphalia; 10 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; sisters Caroline Esser of Woodbine; Margaret (Jerry) Epperle of Bellevue, NE; nieces, nephews, other family members, and friends.

A 1 p.m. Funeral Service was officiated by Rev. John Frost at Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Harlan. Military rites were held at St. Boniface Catholic Cemetery in Westphalia, where Mert and Peggy were inurned together.

Pauley Jones Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

**Pauley Jones**  
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION

**& Pfannebecker Funeral Home**

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