

Cecil Blum, Sr., 70

HARLAN - Cecil Joseph Blum, Sr., son of Nicholas and Sophia (Leenan) Blum, was born May 30, 1919, near Buck Grove in Crawford Co. He was baptized at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Buck Grove and confirmed at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Manilla. He attended Washington Twp. # 9 school in Crawford Co.

He entered the U.S. Army Dec. 3, 1940, where he served his country during WW II. After his honorable discharge Aug. 25, 1941, he returned to Shelby co., and May 26, 1942, he married Anna Mary Muell at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama. Eleven children were born to this union. June 12, 1942, he again entered the U.S. Army, serving his country as a Radar Crewman in the U.S. and Europe. After his honorable discharge Oct. 25, 1945, he returned to Shelby county where he was engaged in farming, dairy cattle and did custom combining for many area farmers. He died April 14, 1990 at St. Joseph Hospital in Omaha, NE., at age 70 years, 10 months and 15 days. He was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church and the Shelby County V.F.W., Post # 941, both of Harlan.

In addition to his parents, Nick and Sophia Leenan, he was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Rosalie; one brother, Zeno Henry and two sisters, MaDonna Marie and Devata Nadvort. Surviving him is his wife, Anna of Harlan; four sons, Terry, Garry of Harlan; Cecil Jr. of Denison and Bryan of Harlan; six daughters, Cheryl (Richard) Bockelmann, Anna (Harris) Miller and Rhonda all of Denison; Candia (Richard) DeCarlo and Colleen (Kevin) Kenkel both of Harlan, and Michelle Blum of Co. Bluffs; 14 grandchildren; three brothers, Lloyd of Fonda; Zeno of Earling and Robert of Coon Rapids, MN.; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated April 17, 1990 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan with Rev. Edward Kelly as the celebrant. Burial was in Harlan cemetery with Bruce Blum, Ryan Kenkel, Jared Kenkel, Michael Blum, Scott Petersen, Zachary Miller, Adam Bockelmann, Nicholas DeCarlo and Brandon Bockelmann serving as honorary casket bearers. Serving as casketbearers were Phil Blum, Don Muell, Kyle Blum, Steve Blum, David Muell, Darrell Blum, Don R. Mathys and Allen J. Blum. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.