

Joseph Bissen, 88

July 11, 1925 - Feb. 25, 2014

CLARINDA — Joseph Michael Bissen was born July 11, 1925 in Defiance son of Paul and Mary (Heinzlmier) Bissen. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. Joe went to St. Paul's Catholic School in Defiance and Crawford County Public School. After completing the 8th grade he then stayed home to work on the family farm. He grew up in Defiance, Buck Grove and Dunlap. Joe served in the United States Army from October of 1950 to September of 1952. During that time he was active in the Korean War as a gunner in the infantry.



Joe was united in marriage to Leona Mary Kramer on January 25, 1954, at St. Peters Catholic Church in Defiance. To this union seven children were blessed to the couple. They began their life together farming in Dunlap, and later in Charter Oak. After retiring from farming they moved to Earling, where they owned and operated the Hi-Way Café. Joe also worked at West Central Job Development in Harlan. An achievement he was proud of was getting his GED at the age of 44. In 1974, they moved to Clarinda. Employed by Iowa Western Community College, he worked at Clarinda MHI for 15 years as a Work Experience Coordinator and Industrial Arts Therapy Instructor. Upon his retirement, he continued his interests in gardening, woodworking, going to auctions and selling antiques and crafts. He will always be remembered as a 'good ole Joe', known for his many jokes and stories. He had a kind heart and was always there to help out family and friends. Joe passed away Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at home.

Joe was preceded in death by his wife, Leona in 2009, parents, brothers: Melvin and Donald Bissen; sisters: Rita Benjamin and Sister Leona (Hildagard) Bissen. Joe is survived by his daughters: Connie Carrico and husband Larry of Murray, Kathy Hammes of Clarinda, Barbara Volker of Carrollton, TX, Janice Milleson and husband Scott of Stanton, Patty Handley and husband Tom of Lewisville, TX; sons: Joseph Jr. and wife Karrie of Warrensburg, MO and Bob and wife Delia of San Antonio, TX; grandchildren: Julie (Shane) Foote, Jason Norton, Jim Norton, Tanya Turner (Rick Dodd), Alana (Cory) Hites, Michael (Ewa) Hammes, Robert (Sarah) Hammes, Amy Volker, Shannon Volker, Nicholas Bissen, Benjamin Bissen, Matthew Bissen, Zach (Carly) Milleson, Lance Bissen, Rafael and Michael Arrendondo, Derek Handley, Shae Handley and fiancé (Chad Moran); 13 great grandchildren; sisters: Stella Hodapp, Theresa Simmons, Marie Jans, Margaret Adams and Armella (Germain) Redding; brothers: Paul Jr. (Martha) Bissen and Kenneth (Alma) Bissen; sisters-in-law: Georgia Bissen, Theresa Grote, Mary Heese and Marlene Kramer; along with many nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Mass of Christian burial for Joseph M. Bissen was held 10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 1, 2014 at the St. Clare Catholic Church in Clarinda. Burial followed the service in the Clarinda Cemetery with military honors provided by Clarinda American Legion Sergy Post #98. Visitation with the family was held Friday, February 28, starting at 5:00 p.m. with a rosary service and continued until 8:00 p.m. at Eickemeyer Funeral Chapel in Clarinda. Memorials are suggested to the Joe Bissen Memorial Fund.

Eickemeyer
Funeral Chapel
400 W Glenn Miller Drive
PO Box 11
Clarinda, IA 51632