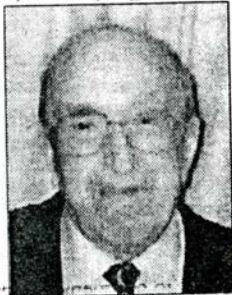


## Leander "Jim" N. Blum, 89

*Nov. 18, 1911 - Oct. 21, 2001*

**EARLING** - Leander "Jim" Nicholas Blum was born to Elizabeth (Reuschenberg) and John P. Blum Nov. 18, 1911, at Defiance. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Peter's Catholic Church and attended St. Paul's Catholic School in Defiance. Jim served in the United States Army Air Force during World War II from Feb. 12, 1942 to Jan. 15, 1946, and was honorably discharged having achieved the rank of Sergeant. He enlisted at the same time with two of his brothers. Following the war, Jim helped run Blum Brother's business in Earling.



Sept. 23, 1947, he married Elizabeth Koesters at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. To this union four children were born. In 1948, he studied plumbing at the National Trade School in Kansas City, MO. Upon completion of his training, he opened a plumbing and heating business in June of 1949, which he operated for over 50 years. He was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, a 3rd Degree Member of the Earling Council No. 1741, Knights of Columbus as well as a member of the American Legion Post No. 615 of Earling. Over a 25 year period, Jim traveled to the southern part of the United States to attend reunions with his Army buddies. Oct. 21, 2001, he died at Little Flower Haven and Rehabilitation Center at age 89 years, 11 months and three days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Father Victor, Lavern; Father Virgil, Edwin and Ermin Blum, and sister, Sister Roselle Blum. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth "Betty" Blum of Earling; children, Mary Elizabeth (Merlin) Hayes of Denton, NE; Kathryn "Kathy" (Larry Kopocis) of La Vista, NE; Timothy Blum (Jacquelyn) of Golden, CO and Jayne (William) Graeve of Lincoln, NE; 10 grandchildren; brothers, Edgar Blum (Helen) of Earling; Cyril "Bob" Blum (Joan) of Placerville, CA and Reno Blum (Ethel) of Ralston, NE; sisters, Mary Ann (Joe) Wilwerding of Earling and Delores (Jerome) Kaufman of Harlan; nieces, nephews and other relatives. -

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Oct. 24, 2001, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, with Rev. Michael Berner celebrant. Military rites were conducted in the St. Joseph's Cemetery by the American Legion Post No. 615 of Earling, with Stephen Graeve, Jeff Kopocis, Matthew Graeve, Merlin Hayes, Larry Kopocis and William Graeve honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Dick Klein, Eugene Sibermaller, Max Kenkel, Marcus Kramer, Denny Kohles, Gerald Bissen and Al Graeve. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.