

## Kenneth Brinker, 64

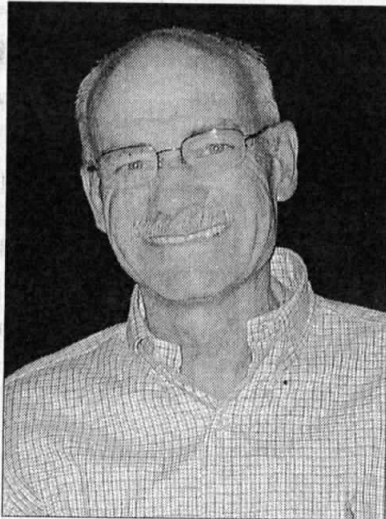
Jan. 7, 1946 - Nov. 2, 2010

**HARLAN** — Kenneth Norbert, the son of Edward and Cleta (Hodapp) Brinker, was born on January 7, 1946 in Harlan. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia, and graduated from St. Boniface High School with the class of 1964. After high school, Ken attended Omaha Technical Institute where he studied refrigeration and electricity. After graduating from refrigeration school, Ken became employed by Madsen Surge in Kimbalton. During this time, he partnered with Don Christensen to build the orange Number 49 stock car for races at the Shelby County fairgrounds.

Ken was united in marriage to Linda Huebner on September 19, 1970 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. Three children: Cory, Tricia and Ann were

born to this union. After their marriage, Ken and Lin made their home in Harlan and later moved to the family farm. December 1, 1980, Ken became employed at Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan. As the medical center grew, so did Ken's responsibility. His most important function was to handle electrical maintenance problems so that all the specialized equipment was properly maintained. He would have received his thirty year recognition in December of 2010. For many years, Ken shared their father's farm equipment with his brother Clarence and farmed the home place west of Harlan. As Ken became a husband and a father, he developed his own set of standards. He liked everything (especially his tools) put back where they belonged. His file system included almost everything he did, from his children's report cards to where and what year he hunted complete with pictures, locations and dates of his prized game. He exhibited amazing care with his family, his home and his land. Serving on the Shelby County Conservation Board for many years, Ken practiced what he preached while he encouraged other farmers to incorporate good farm conservation techniques. He was a man of the earth. Ken was even known to wash his barn twice a year. He belonged to St. Michael's Catholic Church where he served on the parish council and worked on many fund raising projects. Lin and Ken also spent many years working on the Catholic Church Marriage Focus Program assisting young people about to become married. He was one to always help during the church and school re-modeling, as well as many other projects. Grandchildren, red tractors, farming, landscaping, ISU football games and raising his Yellow Labs were special interests for him. Ken died as a result of a motor vehicle accident in Audubon County on Tuesday November 2, 2010 having attained the age of sixty-four years, nine months and twenty-six days.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife Lin Brinker of Harlan; his children: Cory Brinker and his wife Molly of Omaha, NE, Tricia and her husband Aaron Swenson of Shoreview, MN and Ann and her husband Chris Schwieso of Harlan; seven grandchildren: Max, Joe, and Drew Brinker, Chloe and Abigail Swenson and Aubrey and Mia Schwieso; his brother, Clarence Brinker and his wife Karen of Westphalia, his sisters: Sr. Marilyn Brinker



*Pauley*

of Des Moines, Jane and her husband Bob Toller of Tyler, TX and JoAnn and her husband Steve Wright of Pueblo, CO; nieces and nephews; other relatives and many friends.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Rev. John Frost at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan on Saturday, November 6, 2010 at 10:30 AM. Inurnment was held at Lincoln Township Cemetery in rural Harlan.

*Jones*

FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY  
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