

Bruce Coenen, 52

Sept. 12, 1961 - Dec. 4, 2013



HARLAN — Bruce Charles Coenen was born on September 12, 1961 to Paul and Marie (Block) Coenen in Des Moines. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan and attended St. Michael's Catholic School. He graduated from Harlan Community High School with the Class of 1979 and went on to study auto mechanics at Iowa Western Community College.

November 6, 1983, Bruce was united in marriage to Deb Davidson. There were two sons born to them; Darren and David. Bruce drove semi trucks over

the road for Henningsen Construction Company of Atlantic and Sta-Bilt Construction Company of Harlan. He loved music and to play his guitar. His hobbies were fishing and going thrift store shopping and going to garage sales. He was always thinking of his family and would purchase items that reminded him of them. He took good care of his mother by mowing her lawn and getting groceries for her. He could be found watching American Pickers or Pawn Stars on television. He enjoyed repairing electronics and always kept his interest in auto mechanics. Bruce died as a result of an automobile accident on Wednesday, December 4, 2013, having attained the age of fifty-two years, two months, and twenty-two days.

Bruce was preceded in death by his father, Paul Coenen. He is survived by his sons: Darren Coenen of Lewis and David Coenen of Harlan; one grandchild; his mother Marie Coenen of Harlan; brothers and sisters: Craig Coenen of Springfield, MO, Patricia and her husband Keith Stoterau of Avoca, Janis and her husband Tom Scheffler of Harlan, Brian Coenen and his wife Amy of Harlan, Tim Maixner of Sitka, AK, Jim Ducharme and his wife Marcy of Harlan, Kelly Kassel of Des Moines, and Mary and her husband Dan Mitchel of Connellville, PA; nieces and nephews; other family members; and many friends.

Rev. John Frost celebrated the 11:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. Music was provided by Kathleen Ko-

Pauley

horst and Maryalyce Dotzler. Honorary casket bearers were Tom Scheffler and Larry Kramer. Serving as casket bearers were Keith Stoterau, Jason Weihs, Adam Scheffler, Jacob Scheffler, Kevin Chadwick, and John Scheffler. Interment was held at the Harlan Cemetery.

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One dead, two officers injured in crash near Avoca

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A Harlan man died Wednesday from injuries suffered in a two-vehicle wreck on U.S. Highway 59 north of Avoca that also left two law enforcement officers injured. The crash followed a high-speed pursuit along the highway.

The Harlan Police Department responded to a call at about 12:14 p.m. of a person allegedly driving a Pontiac Bonneville under the influence of alcohol. Once located, driver Bruce Coenen led authorities

on a chase that reached speeds of up to 100 mph, according to the Iowa State Patrol.

The 52-year-old Coenen had reportedly left a behavioral care facility in Harlan smelling of alcohol, according to emergency dispatch reports.

The suspect continued southbound on the highway for 9 miles until he collided with an Iowa Department of Transportation enforcement vehicle. The Iowa DOT vehicle, a Chevy Tahoe, did a U-turn in an attempt to block the fleeing Bonneville using a rolling stop, said state patrol Sgt. Jim

Wissler. The Bonneville caught fire, and state troopers who arrived on the scene put out the blaze, he said.

Coenen died at the scene. Officers Kent Leibe, 58, of Carter Lake, and Brian Rink, 40, of Griswold, were both taken to Myrtue Hospital in Harlan with injuries that are not believed to be life-threatening, the state patrol said.

Highway 59 was closed for more than two hours as the crash was investigated. It reopened at about 2:30 p.m.

- Andrew J. Nelson of the World-Herald News Service contributed to this report.

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