

John H. Coenen, 75

Feb. 15, 1924 - Aug. 17, 1999

DEFIANCE - John Coenen, son of William and Catherine (Von Tersch) Coenen, was born Feb. 15, 1924, in Defiance. He attended school at St. Peter's Catholic School, Defiance. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Peter's Catholic Church where he was a lifetime member.

He married Marilyn Ruschenberg March 24, 1948, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. Eight children were born to this union, Mary Lynn, David, James, Connie, Debbie, Tim, John and Cindy. After their marriage, the couple moved to John's parents' farm and this has been their home since. John retired from farming in 1987, but continued to help his son, Tim, on the family farm. He died Aug. 17, 1999, at his home in Defiance, at age 75 years, six months and two days.

In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death by his sisters, Lucille and Irene, and his brothers, Gerald and Bill. Survivors include his wife, Marilyn of Defiance; his children, Mary Lynn (Joe) Henscheid of Des Moines; David (Cheryl) of Denver, CO; Jim (Mary Jo) of Concordia, KS; Connie (Jeff) Christiansen of Norfolk, NE; Debbie (Arthur) Dichard of Denver, CO; Tim and his friend, Chris Roberts, of Defiance; John and his friend, Elizabeth Lombardo of Chapel Hill, NC; and Cindy and her fiancé, Jason Fixsel of Denver, CO; 11 grandchildren; his brother, Paul (Marie) Coenen of Harlan, and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 21, 1999, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance, with Rev. Michael Berner celebrant. Burial was in the Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Defiance, with Jim Coenen, Joe Henscheid, Tim Coenen, David Coenen, Jeff Christiansen, John Coenen, Arthur Dichard and Jason Fixsel casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

