

Paul Coenen, 84

Sept. 10, 1927 - Sept. 16, 2011

HARLAN — Paul Francis Coenen was born on September 10, 1927 to William and Catherine (Von Tersch) Coenen in Defiance. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. He attended school in Defiance and after graduating, continued his education at Creighton Medical School. He served as a Military Policeman in Quantico, VA for the United States Marines during World War II.

May 23, 1948, Paul was united in marriage to Marie Block at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. They were the parents of five children: Craig, Patricia, Bruce, Janis, and Brian.

After his discharge from the military, he worked for Knudsen Construction for thirty-three years. He was self-employed until his retirement in 1998. Paul was a Boy Scout Master for several years as well as a member of the Knights of Columbus Council No. 3900. He enjoyed reading, spending time with his family, and traveling. Paul died on Friday, September 16, 2011 at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, NE, just six days after his eighty-fourth birthday.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Gerald, William, and John, and his sisters Irene and Lucille. He is survived by his wife of sixty-three years Marie Coenen of Harlan; children: Craig Coenen of Springfield, MO, Patricia and her husband Keith Stoterau of Avoca, Bruce Coenen of Harlan, Janis and her husband Tom Scheffler of Harlan, and Brian Coenen and his wife Amy Coenen of Harlan; twelve grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law Sylvia Coenen of Randolph, NE and Marilyn Coenen of Harlan; other family members and friends.

Rev. Don Bruck celebrated the 11:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial on Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. Musician John Rosmann accompanied vocalist Jan Rau. Serving as casket bearers were Jason Weihs, Adam Scheffler, Roger Rust, Tim Coenen, Francis Block, and Leo Block. Military Rites were performed by the Shelby County VFW Post No. 941 and Harlan American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 at the Harlan Cemetery.



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