

Thomas Gross, 66

Feb. 4, 1940 - April 11, 2006

HARLAN — Thomas Joseph Gross, son of Norbert and Dolores (Schnuettgen) Gross, was born Feb. 4, 1940, in Buck Grove. He was baptized at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Buck Grove. Tom was confirmed at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance and attended St. Paul's Catholic School graduating with the class of 1958. After high school graduation, he worked for Farm Best Pork Plant in Denison. He then joined the Iowa National Guard and served his country until his honorable discharge in November of 1978. He also farmed with his brother, Jim, for over 30 years. During that time, Tom also operated Gross Trucking. He worked construction and drove a truck until his retirement in 2005, living in Harlan with his mother.



Tom was a member of the Knights of Columbus in Denison and later became a 4th Degree member of the Luke E. Hart General Assembly of Defiance and its Chalice Club. He was also a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance and the American Legion Post No. 707 of Defiance and Westphalia, where he served proudly in the firing line for the honor guard for countless military rites. He died April 11, 2006, at home in Harlan at age of 66 years, two months and seven days.

Tom was preceded in death by his father, Norbert, and his brother, Samuel. Survivors include his mother, Dolores Gross of Harlan; his brothers and sisters, James Gross (Norma) of Manilla; Marcelleen (Fred) Youngman of Dale, TX; Mary Jane Brody of Omaha, NE; Randall Gross (Virginia) of Harvard, IL; Virginia (Paul) Kruse of Harlan; Lorie (Scott) Bandow of Manilla; 23 nieces and nephews, numerous great nieces and nephews, and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated April 17, 2006, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance with Rev. Michael Berner celebrant and Rev. Robert Hoefler concelebrant. Military Rites were conducted in Sts. Peter & Paul Cemetery in Defiance, by the American Legion Post No. 707 of Defiance and Westphalia. Honorary casket bearers were Leo Sonderman, Alvin Kimmen, Jim Goeser, Bob Kloewer, Joseph Lehan, Ronald Nollen, Dean Bissen, Cal Petersen, Roger Heller, Dan Miller, Junior Carter, and Jim Freund. Casket bearers were Rick Gross, Doug Gross, Steve Gross, Bruce Gross, Paul Youngman, Zack Bandow, Ethan Bandow, David Youngman, Teresa Walton, Steven Youngman, Tammy Neddermeyer, Christy Gross, John Brody, Shawn Brody, Stefanie Gross, Cameron Gross, Tanya Raske, Jason Kruse, Jaime Anderson, Tony Kruse, Michael Kruse, Angela Bandow, and Tiffany Bandow. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.