

## John Heller, 70

Oct. 18, 1936 - Aug. 31, 2007

**DUNLAP** – John Henry Heller was born Oct. 18, 1936, to Leo and Mildred (Weber) Heller in Dunlap. He was raised in Dunlap and graduated from St. Joseph Catholic High School in 1955. John drove a rock truck before purchasing the Dunlap Oil Company from Dean Honaker in 1960.

John married Sharon Kay Thiessen June 12, 1971, in Ashland, NE. John and Sharon built Hellers' Town and Country convenience store in 1983. He also helped Kenneth Barrett at the Barrett Funeral Home and continued helping when the funeral home changed hands and became Fouts Funeral Home. He was a true Dunlap supporter. He was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and a 50 year member of the Knights of Columbus. He played a significant role on the Dunlap Fire and Rescue Department for 47 years. He was an EMT and chief for several years. In 2006, he was inducted into the IEMSA Hall of Fame. For several years he was a delight to the young and old alike as he took on the role of Santa Claus. He died Aug. 31, 2007, at Dunlap Nursing and Rehab Center at age 70 years, 10 months and 13 days.

John was preceded in death by his parents; one infant brother; and his brother, Mike in 1970. He is survived by his wife, Sharon Heller of Dunlap; three children, Angie (Jeff) Jones of Omaha, NE; John Paul Heller (Rhonda) of Onawa; Ed Heller (Sarah) of Omaha, NE; two grandsons, Lance Heller and Logan Jones; three siblings, Bill Heller (Sandy); Rose Ann (Sonny) Klein; Bob Heller (Becky), all of Omaha, NE; and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Sept. 3, 2007, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Dunlap, with Rev. Paul Strittmatter, SJ celebrating. Honorary casket bearers were the Dunlap Fire & Rescue Department. Casket bearers were Fritz Baldwin, Larry Klein, Larry Heller, Melvin Ronk, Dick Howard, and Paul Weber. Burial was in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Dunlap. Fouts Funeral Home in Dunlap, in charge of arrangements.

