

Linus Langenfeld, 84

June 14, 1920 - Dec. 6, 2004

DOW CITY — Linus H. Langenfeld, son of George and Anna Schmitz Langenfeld, was born in Westphalia, June 14, 1920. He received his education at St. Boniface Catholic High School in Westphalia, where he played basketball and baseball with his buddies. They continued playing sports together in the community for many years. In April of 1942, during WWII, Linus entered the United States Army. He served his first six months in basic training at Little Rock, AR, and was then transferred to Springfield, MO for Technician School. His last three years of service were spent at Staten Island, NY, where he worked with the Army Engineers operating heavy equipment.

In 1944, Linus married his high school sweetheart, Josephine Domino, who joined him at Staten Island until he was honorably discharged as a Tech Sergeant in 1946. Together they returned to Shelby County and farmed northwest of Westphalia for seven years. In 1957, they purchased a farm three and one-half miles southwest of Buck Grove, where they farmed for 27 years. In 1984, Linus and Joie retired to their home in Dow City. During his years in Crawford County, Linus was on the Zoning Committee, a member of the Earling Knights of Columbus Council 1741, and was a Washington Township Trustee. While his children were in school he served on the Dow City School Board for nine years. Linus and Josephine were also members of the Catholic Church in Buck Grove and later in Dow City. After suffering a stroke at the age of 68, he was cared for by his wife, Joie, in their home for the last 16 years. He died Dec. 6, 2004, at the Eventide Nursing Home in Denison, at age 84.

Linus was preceded in death by his parents, two infant children, three sisters and one brother. Survivors include his wife, Josephine of Dow City; their remaining six children, Jim Langenfeld (Dee) of Dow City; Barbara Fletcher (Norm) of San Diego, CA; Deb Rochford (Jim) of Peoria, IL; Gene Langenfeld (Lanette) of Columbus, NE; Joan Houston (Dan) of West Des Moines; and Lisa Grober (John) of Peoria, IL; 19 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; two brothers, Ray Langenfeld of Ute; Greg Langenfeld (Theresa) of Dunlap; three sisters, Clela Pitts (Carl) of Oskaloosa; Helen Seimer (Ben) of Dow City; Odella Ann Coenen (Norman) of Woodward; and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Dec. 9, 2004, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Dow City, with Father Richard Ball celebrant. Burial was at the St. Boniface Catholic Cemetery in Westphalia. Honorary casket bearers were Matthew Fletcher, Jeff Fletcher, Michael Fletcher, Ben Grober, Tyler Grober and Jeffrey Grober. Casket bearers were Chad Langenfeld, Luke Langenfeld, Jared Kroll, Josh Langenfeld, Daniel Houston, Christopher Houston and Nicholas Rochford. Military honors were by the Dow City American Legion Post 444. The Huebner Funeral Home in Denison, in charge of arrangements.