

John N. Mickels, 92

Feb. 6, 1909 - Feb. 23, 2001

PANAMA – John N. Mickels, son of Nick and Christine (Muell) Mickels, was born Feb. 6, 1909, on a farm near Panama. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama. John started school at a country school and later attended St. Mary's Catholic School in Panama. He grew to adulthood on his parents' farm. His early employment included a year of trucking, five years as custodian for St. Mary's School and seven years with the Shelby County Road Department.



During this time, John met Anna Theresa Reisz. They were married Nov. 29, 1933, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama. He was also a substitute mail carrier for over 22 years before moving to a farm near Panama in 1944. They farmed here until retiring to Panama in 1977. While farming was his major vocation, he also spent two years as Assistant Postmaster in Panama, and worked another 10 years for the Shelby County Road Department before retiring from there in 1977. He was an active member of his church, serving on several parish committees as well as an adult Mass Server. He served on the Panama Town Council, The Shelby County F.H.A. Board and was township committeeman for six years. He was a director of the Mill-Picaucyne Watershed for 21 years. He has also been on the Board of Directors of the Panama Development Corporation where he served as president. In addition to St. Mary's Catholic Church, he was a member of the Earling Council No. 1741 Knights of Columbus. After Anna's death Dec. 21, 1996, he continued to make his home in Panama until becoming a resident of the Elm Crest Retirement Community in November of 1998, where he died Feb. 23, 2001, at age 92 years and 17 days.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by his daughter, Eileen; two brothers, Ralph and Mike Mickels; and two sisters, Isabel Sontag and Marian Klein. Survivors include his children, Marilyn (Joe) Fahn of Harlan; Ron Mickels (Carol) of Omaha, NE; Roger Mickels of Lakewood, CO; Norma (Dan) Schafer of Aurora, CO; Ken Mickels (Janice) of Omaha, NE; Denise (Andy) Gross of West Des Moines and Nick Mickels (Peggy) of Dunlap; 20 grandchildren; 15 great grandchildren; one sister, Lorena Gubbels of Westphalia; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 26, 2001, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama, with Rev. Michael G. Peters celebrant. Burial was in the St. Mary's Cemetery with Jay Fahn, Nichole Mickels, Erin Keene, Kristi Adams, Lisa Thomsen, Justin Gross, Mark Mickels, Amy Mickels, Megan Keene, Doug Schafer, Kim Mickels, Jason Mickels, Ann Lesiek and Sarah Gross honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Adam Gross, Dean Schafer, Dan Keene, Mike Mickels, Jeff Mickels and Jamie Fahn. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.