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Delbert Munchrath, 83

July 8, 1920 - April 19, 2004

DEFIANCE – Delbert Louis Munchrath, son of Chris and Barbara (Thielen) Munchrath, was born July 8, 1920, in Defiance. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. Delbert attended St. Paul's Catholic Grade School and High School and graduated in 1938. He grew up on the farm right outside of Defiance.

April 29, 1941, he married Vera Finken. Six children were born to this union. After their marriage, they farmed outside of Defiance, and also raised livestock. In November 1954, Delbert and Vera bought into the grocery business. They owned Munchrath Grocery in Defiance. Two years out of that time, they also opened a small cafe called "Hometown Cafe". Delbert and Vera retired in 1999, and both moved to Kansas City, MO, to be closer to their kids. He was a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. He was also a 3rd Degree member of the Earling Council Knights of Columbus No. 1741 and a 4th Degree member of the Luke E. Hart Assembly Knights of Columbus and its Chalice Club of Defiance. He was president of the Iowa Western League for approximately 17 years. He also coached the Defiance Town Team for several years. Delbert was instrumental in locating lights for the Defiance ball diamond so night games could be played in town. Others helped him with this project. He also had the original idea for a gun club in Defiance. Several got together and formed a club. He died April 19, 2004, at North Kansas City Hospital in Kansas City, MO, at age 83 years, nine months and 11 days.

In addition to his parents and his wife, Vera, Delbert was preceded in death by a son, James; and brothers, Ralph and Leo; and sister, Beatrice. Survivors include his children, Roger Munchrath (Maryann) of Omaha, NE; Sheryl Fallert (Bob) of St. Genevieve, MO; Bill Munchrath of Los Angeles, CA; Mary Campbell (Mike) of Gladstone, MO; Shelly Snyder (Rick) of Kansas City, MO; 15 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated April 23, 2004, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance, with Rev. Michael Berner celebrant. Honorary casket bearer was Adam Campbell. Casket bearers were Todd Fallert, Matt Fallert, Mark Munchrath, Brian Munchrath, Jim Munchrath, Nick Fallert and Scott Fallert. Burial was in Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Defiance. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

