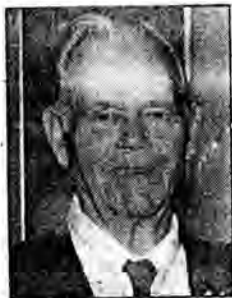


✓ Joseph A. Nowatzke, 82

Dec. 24, 1916 - Nov. 8, 1999

PANAMA - Joseph Aloysius Nowatzke was born Dec. 24, 1916, to Rosa (Gubbels) and Jacob P. Nowatzke in Westphalia Township, Shelby County. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama, and attended St. Mary's Catholic Grade School graduating from St. Mary's High School. He attended one year at Conception College in Conception, MO. Enlisting April 29, 1942, he served four years in the U.S. Army Air Force during WW II in the 328th Troop Carrier Squadron. He was honorably discharged March 15, 1946, having attained the rank of Corporal. Upon his return, he enrolled at Iowa State University, Ames. He then taught at St. Mary's School, Panama, and worked for the parish for one year.



Nov. 28, 1946, he married Doris Jean Kiefer at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Panama. Seven children were born to this union. The couple made their home in Panama, where he spent nearly nine years in the building and construction trade and over 25 years as Postmaster. He retired from the Post Office in June of 1980. He served the American Legion Post #601 in various offices, and also held office in the Tri-County Postmaster's Organization. He was Boys' 4-H Club leader for five years and served on the Boys' 4-H County Committee. Following his retirement from the Post Office, he worked on his lapidary hobby specializing in jewelry making and wine making. He died Nov. 8, 1999, at Elm Crest Retirement Community in Harlan, at age 82 years, ten months and 15 days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Doris Jean; his daughter, Cheryl Ann; a sister, Marie Nowatzke; and brothers, Jacob and Raymond Nowatzke. He is survived by his children, Alan Nowatzke (Reta) of Co. Bluffs; Stephen Nowatzke (Patricia Ann) of Omaha; Jan (Ronald) Hoffmann of Papillion, NE; Randal Nowatzke (Debra) of Harlan; Jeffery Nowatzke (Wendy Kay) of Earling; Sandra (Lynn) Wurdinger of Carroll, NE; 12 grandchildren; one great grandchild; sisters, Ann Kwapiszeski of Panama and Sister Amelia Nowatzke of Atchison, KS; and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 10, 1999, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama, with Rev. Michael Peters celebrant and the Rev. Mr. Patrick Davitt assisting. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery with Chris Nowatzke, Aaron Hoffmann, Adam Hoffmann, David Nowatzke, Jim Nowatzke and Duane Nowatzke casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.