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## Douglas Wessel, 22

*Jan. 14, 1980 - Dec. 4, 2002*

**SOLDIER** – Douglas Steven Wessel was born Jan. 14, 1980, in Onawa, son of Steven and Patricia Ann (Mahlberg) Evers Wessel. He grew up in the Ute area and graduated from Charter Oak-Ute High School with the class of 1998. He enlisted in the United States Air Force briefly, serving until being discharged for health reasons. He returned home where he helped his dad on the farm, ran a custom baling operation, and started a cow herd. Doug purchased a small farm in the Spring of 2002 and had two other farms rented for next year. When not farming, he also worked for CBC Construction. Doug was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ute. In high school, he was very active in FFA and stood out on the baseball team for four years. He died Dec. 4, 2002, at Soldier, at age 22 years, 10 months and 20 days.

Doug was preceded in death by one brother, Matthew Evers. Survivors include his parents, Steve and Pat Wessel of Mapleton; his paternal grandparents, LaVern and Irma Wessel of Ricketts; his maternal grandparents, Dean and Pearl Honaker of Harlan; a special grandmother, Marie Evers of Soldier; one brother, Michael Evers (Judy) of Earling; two sisters, Jaclyn, living at home, and Brandi Lynn of Texas; one nephew, Matthew, and one niece, Mikayla; along with several other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 7, 2002, at the St. Boniface Catholic Church in Charter Oak, with Rev. Richard Ball officiating. Burial was in the Jordan Cemetery, rural Soldier. Honorary casket bearers were Adam Dorale, Derick Bruhn, Nick Melby, Brady Goslar, Mike Hargens and the tractor pulling crew. Casket bearers were Jamie Meadows, Garred Blume, Chris Jensen, Tony Mahlberg, Jeff Meadows, Brandon Blume, Nathan Jensen and Nick Mahlberg. Armstrong Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.