

John O. Kohles, 84

John Otto Kohles, son of John and Eva Herbst Kohles, was born May 3, 1897 in Neola. He was baptized at St. Patrick's Catholic church in Neola and later moved with his family to a farm north of Earling, where he received his First Communion and Confirmation at St. Joseph's Catholic church in Earling. He attended country school near Earling and St. Joseph's Catholic school. He worked for his parents on the farm until Sept. 5, 1918, when he enlisted in the U.S. Army, during World War I as a Private in the Medical dept. After receiving an honorable discharge on March 18, 1919, he returned to Earling to help on his parents' farm.

On January 18, 1921, he married Theresa Wilwerding at St. Joseph's Catholic church. Eight children were born to this union. After their marriage, they lived on the family farm for one year before moving to their own farm northeast of Earling. They farmed this year until 1964, when they retired and moved into Earling. In September of 1980, they became residents of the Little Flower Haven Nursing home. He was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic church, Knights of Columbus, Earling Council No. 1741 and the American Legion Post No. 615.

He died at Myrtle hospital in Harlan on Sunday, June 28, 1981 at age 84 years.

In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death by one daughter, Rita; two grandchildren, Jerry and Michael Kohles; six brothers, Fred, George, Mike, Paul, Henry and Tony; three sisters, Rita, Mary Wingert and Ludvina Langenfeld. Survivors include his wife, Theresa; five sons, Kenneth of Edison, N.J., Don of Defiance, James

and Dennis, both of Earling and Julius "Dewy" of Omaha; two daughters, Marie Kohles and Ruth Swanson, both of Omaha; 26 grandchildren and four great grandchildren; four brothers, Peter of Bloomfield, Nebr., Matt of Los Angeles, Calif., Joe of Maxwell, Calif., and Henry of Denison, and one sister, Sylvia Kobold of Harlan; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Joseph's Catholic church on Tuesday, June 30, 1981 with Rev. Jon Kautzky serving as celebrant and Rev. Leonard Kenkel, Rev. Lloyd White and Deacon Albert Koesters serving as concelebrants.

Burial was in St. Joseph's cemetery with Jack, Alan, Danny, Gerald, Terry and David Kohles serving as casketbearers. Military rites were conducted at the cemetery by the American Legion Post No. 615 of Earling.

Pauley Funeral Home in Harlan, handled the arrangements.