



Ralph J. Blum, 59

Oct. 12, 1936 - June 5, 1996

PANAMA - Ralph Joseph Blum, son of Benedict Leonard and Mary Rose Kwapiszeski Blum, was born Oct. 12, 1936 on a farm near Panama. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama and was a graduate of St. Mary's High School.

June 10, 1957 he married Eunice Ann Leinen

at St. Mary's Our Lady of Fatima Church in Portsmouth. To this union five children were born. They took over his father's farm after their marriage and continued farming until his death. It was there that he died June 5, 1996 in the room he was born in at age 59 years, seven months and 24 days. He was a lifetime member of St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama and also a member of the Knights of Columbus, Earling Council No. 1741.

Preceding him in death were his parents. Surviving are his wife, Eunice of Panama; his children, Joan Petersen of Yankton, SD; Roger Blum of Panama; Lori (Craig) Oswald of Denver, CO; Karen (Gary) Pauley of Ft. Polk, LA; Mary Jo (Jeff) Schmitz of Suffolk, VA; ten grandchildren; his sisters, Adeline May of Harlan and Isabel Feldman of Panama and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated June 10, 1996 at St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama with Rev. Paul Bianchi celebrant and Rev. Tom Crowley, Msgr. Edward Kelly, Father Eugene Klein and Rev. Leonard Kenkel concelebrating, assisted by Deacon Bob Sullivan. Burial was in the St. Mary's Cemetery in Panama with Ed Blum, Ed Reinig, Tim Sullivan, Bob Feldman, Frank Cogdill, Clarence Reinig, Ray Schleimer, Martin Mages, Joe Mickels, Ron May, Jerry May, Ken Tremel, Charlie Blum and John Feldman honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Kenny May, Wayne Bruck, Dean Gubbels, Mike Feldman, Nick May, Joe Mages, Jeff Leinen and Dale Muell. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.