

Melvin Coenen, 93

Aug. 11, 1922 - April 16, 2016

WESTPHALIA — Melvin Coenen was born August 11, 1922 to Godfrey and Agnes (Micalski) Coenen in Westphalia Township. He attended St. Boniface Catholic school, graduating from high school in 1940.

Melvin was united in marriage to Evelyn Marie Schechinger on October 14, 1943 at St. Boniface Church in Westphalia. There were six children born to this union: Dennis, Gailain, Constance, Carol, Michael, and Robert. They farmed in various counties in Iowa. Melvin also worked at Western Engineering and was a manager of the water plant in Bayard. As a young boy, working out in the field on the family farm, Melvin suffered a severe heat stroke. He succumbed to another one while working for Western Engineering, falling from a railroad car, suffering a back injury that was to plague him the rest of his life.

Melvin was an avid sports fan, having a special love for baseball and basketball, having played both in his youth. Melvin also loved to sing, and was a choir member of the St. Boniface Choir during his school years, and a member of the late Father Duren's band in high school. Melvin died on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan, having attained the age of ninety-three years, eight months, and five days.

Melvin was preceded in death by his parents; wife Evelyn; brother Elroy; sisters Madeline Schomer, Eileen Schmitz and Rita Schulte; and grandchild Carrie. He is survived by his children: Dennis Coenen and his wife Amy of Harlan, Gail Coenen and his wife Gina of Grimes, Connie and her husband Tom Hansen of Harlan, Carol and her husband Tom Gaul of McCausland, Mike Coenen and his wife Cindy of Ankeny, and Bob Coenen and his wife Deidre of Bouton; fifteen grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; brothers Clarence Coenen and his friend Sharon Donlin of Harlan, Virgil Coenen and his wife Mary-Ann of Earling; sister Jan Rau of Harlan, and other family members and friends.

Rev. David Smith, S. J. celebrated the 11:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial with Concelebrant Rev. John Frost on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. Jodie Wingert accompanied the St. Boniface Choir. Serving as casket bearers were Shayne Coenen, Sean Hansen, Heath Coenen, Lynn Coenen, Jason Coenen, Matthew Coenen, and Chris Gaul. Burial was held at St. Boniface Cemetery.



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