

Herman "Junior" J. Esser, 74

Jan. 30, 1928 - March 20, 2002 ✓

EARLING - Herman Joseph Esser, Jr. was born to Kathryn (Bissen) and Herman Joseph Esser, Sr. Jan. 30, 1928, near Earling. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. Junior attended St. Joseph's Grade School and was a member of the St. Joseph's High School graduating class of 1945. Following graduation, he worked nights for Swanson Foods in Omaha, NE. In January 1951, Junior entered the United States Army serving in Japan and Korea during the Korean Conflict. He was honorably discharged in October 1952 after serving his country for 19 months receiving the rank of Corporal.

Feb. 9, 1954, he married Alice M. Hastert. The young couple began farming the Esser home place east of Earling. To this union, five children were born. He devoted his life to the family farm retiring in 1993. The farm was designated as a "Century Farm" in 1983 dating over 100 years in the Esser family. He was a lifelong member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, and served on the Parish Council for three years during which he helped organize the parade for the Earling Centennial Celebration. He died March 20, 2002, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 74 years, one month and 19 days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Alex, Tony, Sylvan, Cletus and Ivo; his sisters, Modesta Creager, Viola Esser and Virgie Ann Esser; and his granddaughter, Angela Clemons. He is survived by his wife, Alice Esser of Earling; children, Kathryn (Richard) Herrick of Charles City; Joan (Tim) Christensen of Bennington, NE; Jean (Richard) Musfeldt of Irwin; Ann (Dale) Clemons of Kirkman and Lyle Esser of Earling; 13 grandchildren; one sister, Marcella Kaufmann of Earling; one brother, Marcus Esser (Sophia) of Woodbine; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 23, 2002, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, with the Rev. Michael Berner celebrating. Military rites were conducted in St. Joseph's Cemetery by American Legion Post No. 615 of Earling, with Justin Herrick, Michael Clemons, Adam Herrick, Chris Clemons, Karl Clemons and Sarah Clemons honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Jason Herrick, Valerie Musfeldt, Andy Herrick, Jacob Musfeldt, Clint Christensen, Jarod Musfeldt and Mitch Christensen. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.