

Alvin J. Gubbels, 71

March 14, 1920 — March 30, 1991

HARLAN — Alvin Joseph Gubbels, son of Peter H. and Clara R. (Bock) Gubbels, was born March 14, 1920, on a farm near Westphalia. He died at the home in Harlan, March 30, 1991, at age 71 years and 16 days. He was baptized, received his First Communion, and confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. He attended St. Boniface Catholic School and graduated from St. Boniface High School in 1938. April 24, 1942, he entered the U.S. Army. He served his country during WW II as a Sergeant overseas in the European, Africa and Middle East Theatre. He received the Good Conduct Medal, Silver Star, Croix de Guerre, European-African-Middle East Medals with Bronze Stars, Bronze Service Arrowhead, six Overseas Service Bars, and one Service Stripe. After his honorable discharge Aug. 21, 1945, he returned to farm near Westphalia.

April 29, 1947, he married Mabel Weihs at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. Five children were born to this union. After their marriage, they farmed near Westphalia until the fall of 1980, when they retired from farming and moved into Harlan. Mrs Gubbels died Feb. 19, 1988. He then continued to make his home in Harlan.

Sept. 9, 1989, he married Minerva Andersen in St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. Since their marriage, they have continued to make their home in Harlan. He was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan; Defiance Post No. 707 of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Shelby County Post No. 941, and a Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his first wife, Mabel. He is survived by his wife, Minerva of Harlan; one daughter, Kim (Al) Norris of Omaha, NE.; four sons, Craig of Westphalia; Tom of Harlan; Gail (Deb) of Yankton, S.D., and Clay (Diane) of Harlan; one step-son, Dennis Andersen (Joann) of Oakland; and one step-daughter, Shirlyn (Rex) Reser of Carroll; five grandchildren; five step-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren; four brothers, Peter N. Gubbels (Catherine) and Ambrose Gubbels (Rita), all of Harlan; Cyril Gubbels (Therese) of Co. Bluffs; and Rev. Richard Gubbels of Ankeny; five sisters, Sabina (Eldred) Conrad of Harlan; Sylvia (Edmund) Goeser of Westphalia; Virginia (Cletus) Lickteig of Denison; Helen (Dwight) Wubbenhorst of Mesa, AZ., and Mary Ann (Francis) Koester of Earling; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated April 2, 1991 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan with Rev. Richard Gubbels, celebrant. Concelebrating was Rev. Edward Kelly, Rev. Wayne Gubbels, Rev. Bob Schoemann and Rev. Ken Gross. Military rites were conducted at St. Boniface cemetery in Westphalia by the Defiance American Legion, Post #707. Casketbearers were Jim Goeser, Bob Gubbels, Jeff Gubbels, Allan Koesters, Cletus Gubbels and Robert Lickteig. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.