

Verner Gaul, 88

Feb. 3, 1926 - Jan. 11, 2015

EARLING — Verner was born Verner Peter Gaul on February 3, 1926 to John and Odelia (Schnuettgen) Gaul on a farm southeast of Earling. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, where he also attended Catholic School. In October 1945, Verner joined the Army Air Forces, training in Arkansas before being assigned duties in Sacramento and Riverside, CA and Las Vegas, NV. Verner attended weather school at McClellan Field in Sacramento and was assigned to the 101st Weather Group. He later became a supervisor of weather personnel while stationed at McCarran Field in Las Vegas. Verner also learned to fly an airplane while in the service, soloing on March 14, 1947. Following his discharge, Verner returned home to farm with his dad.



In 1951, Verner was united in marriage to Betty Zimmerman of Westphalia. They had three sons: Gene, Bryon and David. Soon after their marriage, Verner and Betty purchased his father's farm. Immediately, Verner embarked on a series of progressive farming innovations that were sweeping the agricultural world at the time: contour farming, terracing, use of hybrid seed corn, establishment of a Grade A milking facility, erection of a Harvestore silo for storage of silage and one of the first corn-drying bins in the area. Verner had many interests. He loved antique cars and machinery. He was an avid reader of novels and history books. Going to the movies was something he never tired of, his favorite being *Gone with the Wind*, which he saw for the first time at Earling's St. Joseph Parish Hall in 1939 when he was thirteen. He loved to build things out of material he had on hand; turning a bit of scrap into something useful gave him great satisfaction. Verner passed away on January 11, 2015, at the Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease, attaining the age of eighty-eight years, eleven months and eight days or 32,484 days.

Verner is survived by his sons: Gene Gaul and his wife Peggy of Walnut, Bryon Gaul, M.D. and his wife Carrie of Spirit Lake, and David Gaul of Earling; three grandchildren, one step-grandchild; three great-grandchildren, one step-great-grandchild; a brother, Dewie Gaul of Sioux City and a sister, Angie Gaul, a resident of the Little Flower Haven Nursing Home in Earling; sisters-in-law Angela Gaul of Earling, Ann Gaul of Omaha, NE, and Sister Irene Zimmerman of Milwaukee, WI; nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

The 10:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Rev. Urey Mark on Saturday, January 17, 2015 at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. Jodie Wingert was the accompanist and Mary Jo Schmitz was the choir director. Vocalists for the service were Ruth Hoffmann, Dave Hoffmann, Mary Jo Schmitz, Sarah Schumacher, Karen Chamberlain, St. Joseph's Choir and St. Boniface Choir. Serving as honorary casket bearers were Paul Zimmerman, Phil Zimmerman, John Sorrick, Tom Gibson, Jeff Johnson, Mike Gaul and Chris Gaul. Serving as casket bearers were Jim Gaul, John Zimmerman, Rae Zimmerman, Joe Gaul, Tim Gaul, Lee Gaul, Scott Gaul and Randy Gaul. Military Rites were held by Earling American Legion Post No. 615 at the St. Joseph's Cemetery in Earling.

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&
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