

Gerald Goetz, 85

Dec. 8, 1925 - Jan. 24, 2011

IRWIN — Gerald Vitus Goetz was born on December 8, 1925 to Joseph and Antonia (Schechinger) Goetz in rural Westphalia. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia and attended St. Boniface Catholic School.

February 9, 1953, Gerald was united in marriage to Theresa Schmitz at St. Boniface. Ten children were born to this union: Theresa, Thomas, Dianna, Mary, Joe, Lisa, John, Robert, Linda, and Jerry. Gerald kept busy running the family farm, constructed a house and various farm buildings, rebuilt tractors and ran a gas station. He was an excellent welder and did



various projects for his neighbors. He could fix anything and because of his giving spirit and hard-working attitude, he never retired. He and Theresa lived on the family farm east of Irwin, for fifty-eight years. He enjoyed playing baseball and volunteered for many church activities. He was a dedicated member of the parish and served as President of the parish council. Gerald died at Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan, on Monday, January 24, 2011, having attained the age of eighty-five years, one month, and sixteen days.

Gerald was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Walt and Tony. He is survived by his wife of fifty-eight years Theresa Goetz of Irwin; children: Theresa and her husband Ron Hansen of Manning, Thomas Goetz and his wife Fawn of Eatonville, WA, Dianna Petersen of Manning, Mary and her husband Bill Bartelson of Earlham, Joe Goetz and his wife Kelly of Littleton, CO, Lisa and her husband Mark Wilke of Council Bluffs, John Goetz of Irwin, Robert Goetz of Littleton, CO; Linda and her husband Mike Sousa of Eagle, CO, and Jerry Goetz of Highlands Ranch, CO; fourteen grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; sister Rita and her husband Dick Doren of Corley; brother Mike Goetz and his wife Elaine of Westphalia; other family members and friends.

Rev. Chris Fontanini celebrated the 10:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday, January 29, 2011 at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. Serving as casket bearers were Joshua Bartelson, Michael Sousa, Jonathan Kenkel, Bill Bartelson, Mark Wilke, Jeff Keller, Michele Hass, and Jason Fry. Interment was held at Oak Hill Cemetery in Irwin.

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