

## Francis H. Graeve, 82

*May 14, 1919 - July 1, 2001*

**EARLING** – Francis Henry Graeve, son of Otto and Anna (Muenchrath) Graeve, was born May 14, 1919, on a farm near Earling. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, and attended school at St. Joseph's Catholic School. He enlisted in the United States Army July 17, 1942. During World War II, He served under General Patton in the European and African Theaters and was awarded two bronze stars and the Purple Heart. He was honorably discharged Oct. 15, 1945.

April 13, 1944, he married Marie Langenfeld at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Ten children were born to this union. After Francis' honorable discharge, he farmed near Earling. He retired in 1981, and continued to make his home on the farm. He was a lifelong member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and was a member of the Earling Council No. 1741, Knights of Columbus. He died July 1, 2001, at the Veteran's Medical Center in Omaha, NE, at age 82 years, one month and 17 days.

In addition to his parents, Francis was preceded in death by two children, Janice and Joseph, and brothers and sisters, Elmer, Lawrence and Betty. Survivors include his wife, Marie of Earling; his children, Donald Graeve (Lorraine) of Earling; Judy (Gail) Klein of Omaha, NE; Jane (Chuck) Skoumal of Omaha, NE; Allan Graeve of Omaha, NE; Randy Graeve of Denison; Glen Graeve (Linda) of Harlan; Donna (Dale) Erlbacher of Denison; Marvin Graeve (Diane) of Denison; 25 grandchildren; six great grandchildren; his brothers and sisters, Sister Mary Roland Graeve of Milwaukee, WI; Delbert Graeve (Mary) of Harlan; Joseph Graeve (Elaine) of Des Moines; Fred Graeve (Marge) of Denver, CO; Eugene Graeve (Janette) of Omaha, NE; Luella (Vic) Musche of Milwaukee, WI; Dorothy Assman of Omaha, NE; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated July 5, 2001, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, with Reverend Michael Berner celebrating. Military rites were conducted in the St. Joseph Cemetery by American Legion Post No. 615 of Earling, with Scott Klein, Cody Erlbacher, Shane Klein, Jamie Skoumal, Rick Graeve, Willie Heiman, Nick Graeve and Todd Skoumal honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Keith Klein, Eddie Erlbacher, Chris Graeve, Cory Skoumal, Reggie Graeve and Kevin Graeve. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

