

Gerald "Jerry" Grote, 56

April 1, 1948 - Sept. 5, 2004

HARLAN – Gerald Richard "Jerry" Grote was born in Frederick Richard and Loretta Mary (Daeges) Grote April 1, 1948, in Council Bluffs. He was baptized and confirmed at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth. Jerry attended Catholic school first through sixth grades, and then went to country school for a year. He returned to Catholic school, and graduated from St. Mary's Catholic School in Portsmouth in 1966. Jerry worked at the pork plant in Harlan, from 1967-68. He entered the Army in February, 1968, and served on tour of duty in Vietnam. After his discharge in September, 1969, he again worked at the pork plant.



Jerry married Janis Kay Sorensen Aug. 22, 1970, at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth. Two sons were born to this union. In February, 1975, Jerry rejoined the Army. The couple lived in Ft. Riley, KS. Ft. Sill, OK, Nuremberg and Hanau, Germany, and Ft. Ord, CA. Jerry served two tours of duty in Korea before returning to Ft. Sill. He retired from the Army after serving for 20 years. Jerry and Janice then lived in Lawton, OK, for two years while he worked for the Army Air Force Exchange Service. They moved back to Harlan in January, 1994, where Jerry worked at the Elm Crest Retirement Community in the maintenance department and as a cook. In September, 1997, he took a job at Molded Products in Harlan, where he was employed until 2001, when he was laid off. Jerry then worked at Perkins in Omaha, NE, until June, 2003, when he began working for REM Leadway in Shelby. In February, 2004, Jerry was diagnosed with bone cancer, which prevented him from working any longer. He was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church, the Saddle Club in Shelby, and the American Legion. He died Sept. 5, 2004, at his Harlan home at age 56 years, five months and four days.

Jerry was preceded in death by his father and one niece, Stephanie Grote. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Janis Grote of Harlan; two sons, Jamie (Mary) Grote of Willmar, MN and Randy (Bonnie) Grote of Harlan; his mother, Loretta Grote of Harlan; four sisters, Jeannie (Daryl) Jensen of Shelby; Nancy (Randy) Palmer and Connie McElderry, both of Council Bluffs; and Mary (Bud) VanCamp of Harlan; two brothers, Mark (Cheryl) Grote of Harlan; and Ronald (Kim) Grote of Washington, IA; one sister-in-law, Sandra Brennan of Harlan; four grandchildren, Joshua Grote, Kate Grote, Anna Grote and Sophia Grote; two step-grandchildren, Brandon Trevino and Brian Trevino; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Sept. 10, 2004, at St. Michael's Catholic Church with Father Robert Hoefler celebrating. Casket bearers were David Jensen, Danny Jensen, Doug Schneider, Danny Schneider, Jennifer Brennan and Patrick Palmer. Shelby County VFW Post #941 and Helmer Reyelt AL Post #150 were in charge of military rites. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery. Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.