

Thomas Grote, 78

March 17, 1927 - July 28, 2005

PORTSMOUTH — Thomas Patrick Grote, son of William and Julia Lustgraaf Grote, was born March 17, 1927, and was one of seven children. He was baptized and made his first confession and received his first communion at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Neola. The family moved from the farm near Neola to a farm east of Portsmouth in 1935. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Portsmouth where he received the Sacrament of Confirmation. He graduated from the eighth grade and then went to St. Mary's High School for three years and was accepted in his senior year to Creighton Prep High School in Omaha, NE, graduating in June 1945. He was drafted into the United States Navy Jan. 18, 1946, where he worked in Personnel at Arlington, VA. After an honorable discharge in 1946, he worked on the farm as well as doing carpentry work.

Jan. 30, 1950, Tom married Theresa Kramer. To this union 11 children were born. They lived in the Dunlap area for two years then moved to their current home on a farm near Portsmouth and have remained there since 1952. He was a Past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, served on the St. Mary's Parish Council for three terms, served on the Board of Catholic Charities of Des Moines for two terms, and was a member of the American Legion. He died at his home July 28, 2005, at age 78 years, four months and 11 days.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, one son, John Paul and two brothers, Fred and James. He is survived by his wife, Theresa of Portsmouth; his children, Sharon (Bill) Gaul of Tucson, AZ; Mary Lou Arkfeld of Council Bluffs; Joe Grote (Kathleen) of Meridan, KS; Julia Theulen of Harlan; Ruth (Bob) Perry of Colorado Springs, CO; Donna (Chris) McGinty of Topeka, KS; Rita Parsons of Auburn, WA; Robert Grote of Harlan; Laura Pinto of Omaha, NE; John Grote of Oakland, CA; Lisa Martin of Harlan; his brothers: Robert Grote of Portsmouth; Leroy Grote (Betty) of Earling; Raphael Grote (Margaret) of Dunlap; one sister, Hilary (Peter) Gaul of Melbourne, FL; 22 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; his uncle, Harry Grote (Pearl) of Fallbrook, CA; his aunt, Mary (Tom) Martin of Council Bluffs; and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 1, 2005, at St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth, with Rev. John Dorton celebrant. Military rites were conducted in St. Mary's Cemetery in Portsmouth, by the American Legion Post No. 547 of Portsmouth. Honorary casket bearers were Brian Gaul, Rodney Arkfeld, Ryan Arkfeld, Randy Arkfeld, Nick Arkfeld, Eric Theulen, Troy Perry, Jason McGinty, Zach McGinty, Christopher Parsons, Kyle Parsons, Sean Pinto, Brendan Pinto, and Michael Carter. Paulev Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

