

Merlen "Merv" John Jacobsen, 48

Feb. 26, 1950 - Feb. 28, 1998

KIRKMAN - Merlen John Jacobsen, son of John Harold and Gertrude Marie (Troll) Jacobsen, was born Feb. 26, 1950, in Harlan. He was baptized and confirmed at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan. Merlen attended Harlan Schools and was a member of the graduating class of 1968. He was inducted into the United States Army in 1968 and began Military Police training in Las Cruces, NM and served a tour of duty in Vietnam. After the service, he returned to Harlan and resumed a job he had started in high school with H.C. Hall Oil and Tire Company. He later became employed at Doug's Sinclair. In 1974, he started his own car cleaning and detailing shop in Harlan. He moved into his own building in 1985 at 712 Cyclone. He continued his business there until April of 1997 when he was diagnosed with esophageal cancer and was unable to return to work. He was very meticulous and took great pride in his work.

He married Linda Mary Schaben Aug. 17, 1974, at Earling. Two children were born to this union, Bonnie, born in 1981, and Amy, born in 1985. They resided in Kirkman their entire life. He and Linda were avid bowlers for 25 years on a mixed league in Harlan. He died Feb. 28, 1998, at Clarkson Hospital in Omaha, just two days after his 48th birthday. He was preceded in death by his father, John H. Jacobsen. He is survived by his wife, Linda, and their two daughters, Bonnie and Amy of Kirkman; his mother, Gertrude Jacobsen of Harlan; his two brothers, Danny Jacobsen of Harlan, and Larry Jacobsen of Houston, TX; many aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, cousins and in-laws.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 3, 1998, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan, with Rev. Richard Gubbels celebrant. Military rites were conducted jointly in the Harlan Cemetery by the American Legion - Helmér Reyelt Post No. 150 and the Shelby County VFW Post No. 941. Honorary casket bearers were Gene and Karen Schaben, Gene and Jan Wilwerding, William and Jane Grote, Lugene West, Ray Scaben and Doug Nelson. Casket bearers were Steve Petersen, Joe Beaman, Eugene Troll, Gerald Hansen, Roger Randeris, Steve Randeris, Lynn Heimerman and Dennis Baldwin. Payne Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.