

Clarence "Joe" Kenkel, 82

May 4, 1925 - March 14, 2008

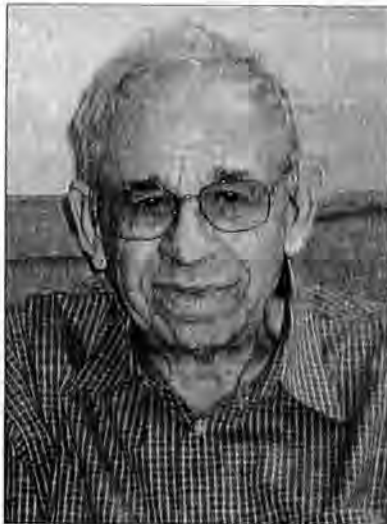
JOHNSTON — Clarence "Joe"

Kenkel was born May 4, 1925, on a farm near Defiance to Nicholas and Mary (Eckerman) Kenkel, the third of ten children. He attended and graduated from Saint Paul's Catholic school in Defiance. Joe was involved in Iowa Rural Youth. He was a member of Saint Peter's parish in Defiance until he moved to Johnston, IA in 1994 where he then became a member of Saint Mary of Nazareth.

Joe married Della (Goesser) in Saint Mary's Catholic Church, Dow City, on August 20, 1955. He was involved with the Shelby County Pork Producers and twice served as president of the Cattlemen's Association. He was a Fourth Degree Knight of the Knights of Columbus, volunteered at Saint Vincent DePaul, was involved with Parish Council, and was a Cantor, Eucharistic Minister, and a Lector. Joe was a devoted father and husband, dedicated to his seven children, and amused by his grandchildren. He remembered and recited the funny lines his kids, grandchildren, nieces and nephews delivered while growing up. And, family would gather round to hear him tell of his and his brothers' and sisters' antics and to view the slides of his travels.

Joe always saw the lighter side of life, loved telling and hearing a good joke, faithfully read the daily comic strips, recited Dr. Seuss' rhymes, and sang as he went about his day. He taught his children the value of keeping it light, laughing at ourselves, and sharing humor with others. Amid life's struggles he could always be counted on for a smile or a laugh. Joe had a deep love of nature and was regularly pointing out deer, birds, fox dens, nests, and tracks. He rode horses with his children, raised longhorn cattle, and was constantly teaching his dogs new tricks. Many will remember Joe's talent for woodworking through his many gifts and donations. Some of Joe's most heartfelt values were honesty, integrity, and his religious faith. He lived his life with these in mind and set a quiet but steadfast example for his family. He died March 14, 2008, at Mercy Hospice in Johnston at age 82.

Joe is survived by his wife of 52 years, Della; children: Mary (Rick) Flatt of Carlisle, IA; Kate (Mark) Kriynovich of Columbus, OH; Andrew Kenkel of Las Vegas, NV; Jeanne (Hassan) Tajvar of Salisbury, MD; Jane (Werner) Horst of La-Grangeville, NY; Phil (Heidi) Kenkel of Cedar Falls, IA; and Peg (David) Thomsen of Iowa City, IA. His grandchildren are Katie and Megan Flatt; Rosstam (Ross) and Leila Tajvar; Gabriella, Andrew, and Sophia Thomsen; and Joseph and Benjamin Kenkel. Joe is also survived by his nine siblings: Francis (Mary Ann Buman) Kenkel of Defiance, IA; Helen Juelsgaard of Walnut, IA; Mildred Anderson of Milwaukee, WI; Eileen (Eugene) Rossi of Milwaukee, WI; Alice (Ludwig) Buman of Harlan, IA; Madonna (Clarence) Neppel of Salida, CO; Robert (Bernice Donohue) Kenkel of Scottsdale, AZ; Mary Pat (Walter) Sweetman of Colorado; and Nicholas (Mary Ann Esser) of Lakeville, IN.



Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at 10 a.m. at Saint Mary of Nazareth in Des Moines, IA, Visitation was Monday, March 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. with a Rosary service at 7 p.m. at Merle Hay Funeral Home. Burial was at St. Paul's Cemetery in Defiance, IA. Sons and sons-in-law served as the pall bearers.

**Merle Hay
Funeral Home**
4400 Merle Hay Rd.
Des Moines, IA 50310
515-278-4633