

Roman Kloewer, 77

Dec. 28, 1927 - Feb. 16, 2005

PANAMA — Roman Otto Kloewer, son of Frank and Anna (Rau) Kloewer, was born Dec. 28, 1927, near Westphalia. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. He attended grade school at St. Boniface Catholic School in Westphalia and graduated from Sts. Peter and Paul High School in Defiance with the class of 1946. After high school, he farmed and later enlisted into the United States Army in 1951. During his service, he served one year in Korea and later at Camp Atterbury in Indiana until his honorable discharge Oct. 23, 1952. Upon returning home, he continued farming.



Roman married Kathleen M. Stephany Feb. 16, 1954, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama. They began farming in the Manilla area and later moved to Kathleen's family farm southeast of Panama where they have since resided. In addition to farming, Roman drove truck for Panama Transfer, Codgill Farm Supply and G & R Feed and Grain. He was a longtime member of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama. He was very active in not only his church with the Knights of Columbus but also on the St. Mary's School Board and Parish Council. He was a member of the Panama Community Club and was honored as Farmer of the Year in 1977. Roman served on the Panama Volunteer Fire Department, Panama Development, as a Washington Township Trustee for 18 years and was a former president of the Rosman Glendale Golf Course. He also was a 51-year member of the American Legion Post 601 of Panama and served as a past commander. He died Feb. 16, 2005, their 51st wedding anniversary, at Clarkson Hospital in Omaha, NE, at age 77 years, one month and 19 days.

In addition to his parents, Roman was preceded in death by his son, Jerry; and his brother, Eugene, who died while serving in World War II. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen Kloewer of Panama; his children, Ron Kloewer (Kathy) of Red Oak; Sharon (Richard) Freeman of Council Bluffs; Lois (Rod) Riessen of Harlan; Gina (Allen) Hoffmann of Panama; Denis Kloewer (Christine) of Panama; and Jill (Larry) Wendt of Lincoln, NE; 10 grandchildren, Marc Freeman, Sarah Kloewer, Ashley Freeman, Laura Kloewer, Katie Hoffmann, Megan Freeman, Anna Riessen, Amanda Hoffmann, Faith Riessen and Elizabeth Riessen; his brothers and sisters, Rita Leinen of Portsmouth; Sister Frances Kloewer of Earling; Stella Bexten of Manilla; Marie Block-Smith of Dunlap; Margaret (Raphael) Grote of Dunlap; Gerald Kloewer (Pauline) of Harlan; Charles Kloewer (Rosemary) of Mapleton; and Michael Kloewer (Marlys) of Manilla; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Feb. 19, 2005, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama, with Rev. John Dorton celebrant. Honorary casket bearers were Keith Jensen, Kenny Pauley, Jerry Waltz, Don Keane and Leonard Rau. Casket bearers were Bob Theulen, Eugene Monson, Bob Huebert, Marc Freeman, Dick Sorensen and Phil Wegner. Military rites were by the American Legion Post No. 601 of Panama. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Panama. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.