

## Harley P. Kruse, 76

*Aug. 2, 1926 - Dec. 21, 2002*

**HARLAN** — Harley Paul Kruse was born to Freida (Logemann) and Paul W. Kruse at their farm home in Washington County, NE, Aug. 2, 1926, the third of four children born to Freida and Paul, and was baptized in the Ft. Calhoun Presbyterian Church. He attended Greene Elementary School and graduated from Ft. Calhoun High School at age 16. Following graduation, he worked for his brother-in-law, Ray Kruse, driving trucks and also helped his father on the family farm. Harley entered the United States Army in June of 1945. He served as military escort at several bases and as a surgical technician at West Point Military Hospital. He received an honorable discharge from the Army Nov. 1, 1946, and went home to farm land near his father's farm.

Harley first met Teresa Pfeifer at the Sokol Dance Hall in Omaha in 1948. Harley and Teresa were married at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Spalding, NE, Feb. 15, 1950. He was baptized in the Catholic faith prior to their marriage and later confirmed. They made their first home on a farm near Logan, where their first two children, Karen and Paul, were born. They later moved to a farm near Avoca, where Jim and Cliff were born. In 1960, the young Kruse family moved again, this time to Harlan. There Harley, with his partner, Francis Green, began a new trucking business. Two years later, Harley became sole owner of what came to be known as Kruse Trucking. He also built another business, the Storage Place, with his partner, Denny Stamp, and later became sole owner. While the Kruses were living on Walnut Street in Harlan, two more children, Gene and Jon, were born. He was a member of St. Michael's Church in Harlan for 43 years. He served as a church council president and supervised the construction of the Rosman Parish Center. He also was a member of the Knights of Columbus for 50 years and a Fourth Degree member. He was a member of American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 of Harlan and the Iowa Farm Bureau. He retired in 1997. Harley and Teresa celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a Mass, reception and dance in 2000. Harley died at home Dec. 21, 2002, after a long battle with prostate cancer at age 76 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his wife, Teresa Kruse of Harlan; children, Karen Kruse Beville (Charlie) of Centennial, CO; Paul Kruse (Virginia) of Harlan; Jim Kruse (Shelly) of Altoona; Clifford Kruse (Jane) of Harlan; Gene Kruse (Lynn) of Portage, MI and Jon Kruse (Ann) of Draper, UT; 20 grandchildren; one great grandchild; sisters, Ruberta Kruse and Verna (Richard) Bull of Blair, NE; and brother, Mylan Kruse (Corrine) of Cedar Bluffs, NE; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 24, 2002, at St. Michael's Catholic Church with the Rev. Jack McClure, C.P.P.S. celebrant. Military rites were conducted in the Harlan Cemetery by American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 of Harlan and Shelby County Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 941 with John and Isabel Klein, Helen Langenfeld, Everette and Jenny Greve, Pete and Dorothy Matea, Irene Green, Kenny and Verena Coenen and Harry and Delores Stejskal honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were his grandsons, Anthony Kruse, Kevin Kruse, Matt Kruse, Scott Beville, Jason Kruse, Chad Beville and Lucas Kruse. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

