

Harold "Hal" Thielen, 82

Feb. 13, 1930 - Aug. 26, 2012

McINDOE FALLS, VT — Harold Raymond "Hal" Thielen, 82, finished his work on earth and returned to Our Lord on August 26, 2012, at The Pines in Lyndonville, VT.

Hal was born in Panama on February 13, 1930, to John and Cecilia (Klein) Thielen.

April 12, 1969, Hal married Mary Jean Hrinevich. Hal graduated from St. Mary's School in Portsmouth in 1947, as the class Valedictorian and continued his education, receiving his BA with Honors, from Notre Dame University. He was awarded his Masters from Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, OH. He also studied at the Vanderbilt School of Music in Chicago. Hal was an educator, teacher and school administrator. He began his career at the St. Francis School in Mt. View, CA, moving on to the Gilmour Academy in Gates Mills, OH. He then went to the St. Edwards School in Cleveland, OH, and the St. Agnes School in Flint, MI, before returning to the Gilmour Academy. He continued his career at the Cranbrook School in Bloomfield Hills, MI before going to Brandon Hall in Dunwoody, GA where he retired. Over the years he taught French, English and Religion and advised award winning yearbooks and school newspapers. Following his retirement, he taught SAT classes and served as a private tutor. In 1967, Hal was recognized as a National Impact Teacher. While teaching, Hal inspired his students to excel-many times, in spite of themselves. Teaching and learning were Hal's anchors. While at Gilmour Academy he revived drama productions. A lover of music, he played the organ and piano at church and for private events and directed several men's choruses. Hal and Mary Jean lived in Williston, VT from 1989-1997 and moved to McIndoe Falls, VT in 2005. He belonged to the Holy Cross Brothers for eighteen years, was a Communicant of St. Eugene's Catholic Church in Wells River, VT and was a member of the McIndoe Falls Preservation Group. Hal was devoted to his dog, Rosie, and the sight of her brought a warm smile to his face.

Hal was predeceased by a sister, Velma Ring and two brothers, Jack Thielen and Neil Zimmerman. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Mary Jean Thielen of McIndoe Falls, VT; three sisters, Ella Mae Schaben of Harlan, Janice Marker and husband Donny of West Des Moines, and Carolyn Mortensen and husband Roy of Naples, FL; two brothers, Eldred Zimmerman and wife Germaine of West Des Moines and Richard Zimmerman of Council Bluffs; a sister-in-law, Bonnie Zimmerman of Indianola; 37 nieces and nephews and 77 great nieces and nephews; and hundreds of cousins.

Visitation with the family will be held Tuesday, September 4, 2012, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Portsmouth. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 12:00 noon at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Father John Dorton, pastor will be the celebrant. A lunch will immediately follow in the parish center. Memorial contributions may be made to Charlene Schwery-Schmidt Fund, 2005 College Place, Harlan, IA 51537. Hal's family would like to express their gratitude to Dr. Joyce Dobbertin for her dedicated care and to all the staff at The Pines for their loving care. For more information, or to offer an online condolence, please visit www.cutleroneill.com.



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