

Felix W. Dotzler, 86

Nov. 5, 1915 - Oct. 9, 2002

HARLAN – Felix Wilfred Dotzler was born to Joseph and Margaret (Blum) Dotzler Nov. 5, 1915, at Defiance. He was baptized, received his first communion and was confirmed at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. July 20, 1942, he enlisted in the United States Navy Air Corp. On his first assignment aboard the S.S. Monterey, he experienced nine major engagements. Later, Felix served on the S.S. Henry Bergh which sank leaving Felix in the water for 2 1/2 hours before being picked up by the U.S.S. King.

Jun 11, 1945, while still serving his country, Felix married Kathleen Fagan at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Missouri Valley. To this union five children were born. He received his honorable discharge Sept. 21, 1945, and returned to Harlan, to make his home with Kathleen. He resided there for the remainder of his life. He worked for the Iowa Department of Transportation for over 29 years retiring in January of 1978. He was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan since 1945, and American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 of Harlan. He died Oct. 9, 2002, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 86 years, 11 months and four days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Kathleen, Dec. 3, 1991; daughter, Vickie Jolene Dotzler, April 18, 1958; grandson, Gregory Stephen Finken, March 17, 1977; brothers, Joseph, Adolph and Aloysius (Hook) Dotzler; and sisters, Barbara Koppold, Margaret Koppold, Lena Schleier and infant sister, Katie, and infant brother, Peter. He is survived by his children, Sharon (Steve) Finken of Harlan; Patricia Dotzler of Los Angeles, CA; Richard Dotzler (Maryalyce) of Harlan and Pam (Michael) Jensen of Harlan; seven grandchildren; four great grandchildren; one sister, Irene Erlbacher of Harlan; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Oct. 11, 2002, at St. Michael's Catholic Church with the Rev. Jack McClure, C.P.P.S. celebrating. Military rites were conducted in the Harlan Cemetery by Shelby County Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 941 and American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 of Harlan, with Bill Dotzler, Ron Erlbacher, Don Dotzler, Frank Koppold, Leo Goeser and Denny Dotzler casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

