

Leo "Joe" Fahn, 72

Sept. 5, 1934 - July 27, 2007

HARLAN - Leo Joseph (Joe) Fahn was born Sept. 5, 1934, to Leo and Hilda (Leuschen) Fahn in rural Harlan. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama. He received his education from St. Mary's Catholic School in Panama, graduating in 1952, and continued on to Iowa State University for one year. He then had the opportunity to farm and continued to do so until 2006.



June 6, 1955, Joe married Marilyn Mickels at St. Mary's in Panama. Two sons were born to this union, Jay and Jamie. They were blessed to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in 2005. Joe became a member of the Iowa Pork Producers and remained active until 2005. Locally, he served as a county and district chairman. On the state level, he served on many committees as well as Treasurer, Vice President, and finally as President in 1983. He served on the Livestock and Meat Board based in Chicago from 1988 to 1995. He was a member of the Iowa Banking Board for 12 years. He served as president of St. Mary's Parish Council, held offices in the Panama Community Club, was a Scout leader, coached Little League baseball, was a 4-H leader, and FFA Lifetime Alumni. He was named Farmer of the Year by the Panama Community Club in 1973 and by the FFA in 1990. In 1975 he was honored as Shelby County Pork Producer of the Year. Forty years ago when the Catholic Church allowed lay people to be lectors, Joe was one of the first to serve at St. Mary's in Panama. He was an altar server until 1991 when Joe and Marilyn moved to Harlan. They were members of St. Michael's Parish where Joe also served as a lector and usher. He died July 27, 2007, in his sleep at Myrtue Medical Center at age 72 years.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents and his brother-in-law, Nick Gubbels. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Marilyn Fahn of Harlan; his sons, Jay Fahn (Linda) of Harlan, and Jamie Fahn (Mary) of Portsmouth; grandchildren, Megan and Ryan Fahn of Portsmouth; Bonnie (Brian) Reinig of Omaha, NE; and Amy Jo Jacobsen of Indianola; his sisters, Marge Gubbels of Harlan; Donna (Kenny) Escher of Harlan; Judy (Chuck) Reynolds of Omaha, NE; Mary Rose (Hollis) Bledsoe of Avoca; his brothers, Charlie Fahn (Linda) of Canton, GA, and Bill Fahn (Joan) of Panama; nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held July 30, 2007, with celebrant Rev. Bob Hoefler and Concelebrant Rev. Leonard Kenkel officiating at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. Honorary casket bearers were Ken Mickels, Leo Kloewer, Chuck Bjuström, Mike Telford, Rich Dagner, Melvin Morfeld, Jim Ledgers, and Jim Meyer. Casket bearers were Ryan Fahn, Brian Reinig, Dean Gubbels, Bill Fahn, Charlie Fahn, and Chris Rodenborn. Burial was held at St. Mary's Cemetery in Panama. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.