

Eugene (Gene) Finken, 77

Nov. 21, 1921 - Oct. 31, 1998

HARLAN - Eugene Nicholas Finken, son of Mike and Magdalena (Jacoby) Finken, was born July 13, 1921, at Defiance. He attended St. Peter's Catholic School in Defiance and St. Peter's Catholic Church. Jan. 26, 1934, he moved to Harlan, where he graduated from Harlan High School in 1939. During his senior year he was editor of the school yearbook. During his high school days he worked at the Harlan Theater in downtown Harlan. After his graduation, he worked at the Harlan Newspapers. July 17, 1942, he entered the United States Army. He took his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, attended school at the University of Kentucky with the corps of engineers which included topical drafting. From Kentucky he was sent to California to various bases and was then sent overseas from Virginia. He was stationed in England, Scotland, France, Belgium and Germany, receiving his honorable discharge Dec. 5, 1945. Upon returning to civilian life, he attended AIB Business School in Des Moines for two years.

Nov. 6, 1946, he married Mary L. Stangl. They became the parents of four sons. He was employed at Farmer's Grain Dealers of Des Moines and Dan Gardiner, Inc. of Des Moines as a public accountant until retiring in 1986. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus of Harlan, Council No. 3900 and the Shelby County VFW, Post No. 941. Nov. 7, 1998, he died at the Dunlap Care Center at age 77 years, three months and 25 days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Armella Wettingel, Pauline Heesch, Rita Sanford, Mary Strong and Gertrude Finken. Survivors include his wife, Mary Finken of Harlan; his sons, Mike Finken (Kitty) of Stuart, FL; Steve Finken of Lenexa, KS; Stan Finken (Chris) of Knoxville; and Les Finken (Teresa) of Iowa City; six grandchildren; his sisters, Lioba Goeser of Missouri Valley; Vivian Kuhr of Des Moines; Teresa (Ted) Brazie of Nogal, NM and Isabelle Finken of Des Moines; his brother, James Finken of Des Moines, and other relatives.

Memorial services were held Nov. 10, 1998, at Pauley Funeral Home. The body was donated to the University of Iowa Medical School for research.