

Harlan News-Advertiser, Friday, Feb. 7, 2003

William Finken, 70 ✓

March 15, 1932 - Jan. 23, 2003

HARLAN – William "Bill" John Finken, son of Joseph A. and Kathryn (Quinn) Finken, was born March 15, 1932, in Defiance. He was raised in Defiance, and graduated from St. Paul High School in 1951. Bill entered the U.S. Army, serving stateside during the Korean War.

Aug. 27, 1957, he married Rita Theresa Hastert in Panama. The couple lived in Manilla and Defiance for a number of years before moving to Harlan, in 1976. Bill worked in a variety of jobs including meat packing, road construction, and running a restaurant with his wife, Rita. He retired in 1994. He was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church. He also belonged to the American Legion in Defiance. He died Jan. 23, 2003, at Jennie Edmundson Memorial Hospital in Council Bluffs, at age 70 years, 10 months and eight days.

Preceding him in death were his parents; two brothers, Tom Finken and Delbert Finken; and one sister, Kathleen McMahan. Survivors include his wife, Rita Finken of Harlan; three daughters, Janet (Larry) Koester of Westphalia; Mary Jo Allen of Olathe, KS; and Diane (Neil) Hansen of Harlan; two sons, Dave (Jill) Finken of Waverly, NE; and Bill (Paula) Finken, Jr. of Carroll; and one sister, Patricia (Urban) Knobbe of Carroll; 12 grandchildren and other relatives.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Jan. 25, 2003, at St. Michael's Catholic Church with Father Jack McClure, C.P.P.S. celebrating. Casket bearers were Tony Koester, Lyle Esser, Ed Rueschenburg, Frank Rueschenburg, Richard Hastert and Pat McMahan. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with graveside military rites provided by the Shelby County VFW Post #941 and Helmer Reyelt American Legion Post #150. Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.