

Eugene Lefeber, 75

April 17, 1931 - Nov. 16, 2006

PORTSMOUTH — Eugene "Gene" Stephen Lefeber, son of John H. and Emma Leinen Lefeber, was born April 17, 1931, in Portsmouth. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth and had his first communion May 26, 1938. After graduating from high school, Gene enlisted in the United States Air Force and served his country honorably from 1952 to 1956.

July 14, 1953, Eugene and JoAnne Frank were married at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. To this union, eight children were born, Dan, Diane, Julie, Kathy, Randy, Peggy, Rick, and Kelly. After his discharge from the service in 1956, he moved his family back to the Portsmouth area and began farming. He was later employed at Western Iowa Pork, Key Real Estate, Ouren Real Estate, Terry Knapp Real Estate and finally at Hy-Vee retiring in 1999. He died Nov. 16, 2006, at Little Flower Haven in Earling at age 75 years, six months and 30 days.

Gene is preceded in death by his parents; his wife, JoAnne; one daughter, Peggy Lefeber; and brothers, Richard, Ernest and Robert. He is survived by his children, Dan Lefeber (Charlene) of Portsmouth; Diane (Tom) Butler of Harlan; Julie (Bob) McCool of Tennant; Kathy (Dick) Keane of Panama; Randy Lefeber of Dow City; Rick Lefeber (Janet) of Harlan; Kelly Lefeber (Jennifer) of Harlan; 18 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brother, Russell Lefeber (Dorothy) of Harlan; two sisters, Marge (Ray) Dean Gordon of Arion and LaVonne (Paul) Jensen of Council Bluffs; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Nov. 20, 2006, at St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima in Portsmouth, with Rev John Dorton celebrant. Honorary casket bearers were Josh Lefeber, Dylan Lefeber, Emily Lefeber, Michelle Keane, Lisa McCool Becker, Kaitlyn Lefeber, Kristi Pederson, Jessica Keane, Abby Lefeber, James Lefeber and Nicole Lefeber. Casket bearers were Chad Butler, Tim Pederson, Kevin Lefeber, Ryan Lefeber, Mike Butler, Brad Butler, David McCool and Shawn McCool. Military rites were done by the Portsmouth American legion Post No. 547 with burial in the St. Mary's Cemetery in Portsmouth. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

