

## Walter John Reisz, 74

*Jan. 30, 1928 - Oct. 27, 2002*

**PORTSMOUTH** — Walter John Reisz, son of John and Marie (Gerlach) Reisz, was born on a farm near Panama, Jan. 30, 1928. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama, and grew to adulthood on the family farm. He attended St. Mary's Catholic School also in Panama where he graduated from high school in 1946. He entered the United States Army Air Corp Sept. 20, 1946, at Fort Snelling, MN. His three years of military service included almost two years in Okinawa, Japan. After receiving his honorable discharge Sept. 19, 1949, he returned to Shelby County.



Oct. 18, 1951, he married Mary Ellen Leinen at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Portsmouth. To this union five children were born. After their marriage, they lived in Portsmouth, where they operated a grocery store. Walter continued in the store until 1961, when he went to work for the United States Postal Service as a rural mail carrier. He retired from the Post Office Dec. 31, 1989, after 28 years of service. After his retirement, Walter and Mary Ellen continued to live in Portsmouth. He was a member of St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth and Msgr. Joseph Sondag Portsmouth Council No. 12193 Knights of Columbus. He died at Myrtue Memorial Hospital Oct. 27, 2002, at age 74 years, eight months and 27 days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three sisters, Anna Mickels, Theresa Hastert and Marie Hastert, and five brothers, John, Joe, Frank, Carl and Leonard. Survivors include his wife, Mary Ellen Reisz of Portsmouth; his children, Joan (Keith) Potter of Harlan; Philip Reisz of Council Bluffs; Carol (Randy) Musich of Harlan; Peggy (Steve) Patten of Harlan and John (Pat) Reisz of Bellevue, NE; and his nine grandchildren, Stacie, Sherry, Sarah, Nick, Melissa, Tara, Theresa, Derek and Emily. Additional survivors include his sisters and brother, Catherine Stinn of Panama; Elizabeth (Norbert) Steffen of New Hampton and Rev. Adam Reisz of Earling; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Oct. 30, 2002, at St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth, with the Rev. Paul Bianchi celebrant. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Portsmouth, with Bill Reisz, Richard Reinig, Kevin Reisz, Darrel Leinen, David Lefeber and Nick Mickels casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.