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Alvin J. Stessman, 65

June 30, 1929 - March 28, 1995

Panama - Alvin Joseph Stessman, son of Alfred and Beatrice (Leuschen) Stessman was born June 30, 1929 on a farm near Panama. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama and graduated from St. Mary's High School growing to adulthood on the family farm. After school, he farmed with his father until Jan. 8, 1951 when he entered the United States Air Force. He served his country during the Korean War being stationed in Labrador for 18 months. After his honorable discharge on Nov. 18, 1954 he returned to the family farm.

June 26, 1956 he married Dolores Zimmerman at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama. Six children were born to this union. Since their marriage, they farmed the family farm formerly occupied by his parents and grandparents. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama where he was also a member of the church choir, the Liturgy Committee, was a church lector and the high school CCD teacher as well as a member of the Bible Study group. He was also a member of the Panama Community Chorus, the Shelby County Democratic Central Committee, Farm Bureau PAC Committee and the Panama American Legion, Post #601. He was the Shelby County Farm Bureau past president, past president of the Panama Community club and former member of the Panama Athletic Association Board as well as former chairman of the Shelby County Extension Council.

He had also served on St. Mary's Parish Council and Education Board as well as the Des Moines Diocesan School Board and Harlan Community School Board. In 1969 he received the Panama Community Club's first Farmer of the Year Award, and he also served on the Board of the South West Iowa Farm Business Association. He died March 28, 1995 at the Nebraska Methodist Hospital in Omaha, NE at age 65 years, eight months and 26 days. He was preceded in death by his parents and son Paul at the age of ten months. He is survived by his wife Dolores of Panama; his children, Richard Stessman of Omaha, NE; James Stessman of Harlan; Patrick Stessman of Panama; Carol (Dan) Kloewer of Omaha and Dan Stessman of Ames; his sisters and brother, Bernice Gaul of Earling; Margaret (James) Walsh of Missouri Valley; Ethel (Alvin) Heller of Portsmouth and William (Jane) Stessman of Charlotte, NC; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated March 31, 1995 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama with Rev. Chuck Kottas celebrant and Rev. Don Daleke concelebrant. Military rites were conducted in St. Mary's cemetery in Panama by the Panama American Legion, Post #601. Casket bearers were Jeff Theulen, Allan Zimmerman, Mike Theulen, Scott Pauley, Randy Nowatzke and Duane Assmann. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.