

Donald Schechinger, 46

Dec. 7, 1960 - Nov. 8, 2007

HARLAN - Donald Gerard Schechinger, son of Elmer and Margaret (Stessman) Schechinger, was born Dec. 7, 1960, in Harlan. He was one of 15 children and had a twin brother, Ron. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. Don attended school in Harlan, and graduated from Harlan Community High School in 1980.

He married Debra Dea April 9, 1988. Four children were born to this union, Molly, Justin, Elizabeth, and Annabel. After their marriage, they made their home near Harlan. Throughout high school, Don worked for his father at Schechinger Seed Co. doing farming; conditioning soybeans and everything else that needed to be done. He continued to work there until the present time. He was a member of St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia for many years and later became a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan where he spent many weekends ushering. In 1980, Don joined the Westphalia Volunteer Fire Department and continued to be a member even after becoming a member of the Harlan Fire Department. He died Nov. 8, 2007, at Creighton Medical Center in Omaha, NE, at age of 46 years, 11 months, and one day.

Don is preceded in death by his father. He is survived by his wife of 19 years, Debra Schechinger of Harlan; his children, Molly, Justin, Elizabeth, and Annabel Schechinger, all of Harlan; his mother, Margaret Schechinger of Westphalia; his siblings, Connie (Ron) Carter; John Schechinger (Cindy); Ray Schechinger (Ann); Tom Schechinger (Kay); Sharon (Jim) Bieker; Dan Schechinger (Joan); Donna (Galen) Grabill, Ron Schechinger (Konnie), all of Harlan; JoAnn (Galen) Schnack of Westphalia; Glen Schechinger and his special friend, Denise Bever of Oakland; Janice (Chuck) Assman of Earling; Dean Schechinger (Rita) of Oakland; Lora (Rick) Zimmerman of Golden, CO; and Kevin Schechinger (Tera) of Oakland; nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Nov. 12, 2007, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan with Rev. Bob Hoefler celebrating. Casket bearers were Ben Bieker, Brad Schechinger, Charles Grabill, Noah Dea, Jeremy Schechinger, and Shane Schechinger. Honor Guard was the Westphalia Volunteer Fire Department and the Harlan Fire Department with burial at the Harlan Cemetery. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

