

Robert "Rusty" Sorensen, 85

Jan. 16, 1922 - May 27, 2007

HARLAN – Robert "Rusty" Sorensen, son of William and Rachel Cushing Sorensen, was born Jan. 16, 1922, in Corley. He attended country school in Corley and after school, worked at the sawmill near Corley. Aug. 12, 1942, Rusty enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served his country honorably until his discharge at Camp Lejeune, NC, Oct. 24, 1945. After his military service during World War 2, he lived in California and worked at his brother's filling station. After a short time in California, Rusty returned home to Corley and worked as a hired man on area farms.



Feb. 23, 1951, Rusty married Dorothy Schneider in Omaha, NE. Four children were born to this union: William, Michael, Paul, and Jean. They continued to make their home near Corley until the mid 1960's when they moved into Harlan where he tended bar at the VFW. A short time later, he began working at Mickel's Restaurant where he became the night manager for several years before retiring in 1983. In Rusty's retirement, he and Dorothy remained in Harlan. Dorothy died Feb. 18, 1993, and after her death, he remained at home in Harlan. In April of 2004, Rusty moved to Little Flower Haven and this is where he died May 27, 2007 at age eighty-five years, four months and eleven days.

In addition to his parents, Rusty was preceded in death by his son Paul; his daughter Jean and his brothers and sisters: Irma Condor, Viola Briggs, Howard Sorensen, Mary Slate, Paul "Bud" Sorensen and Kenneth "Tubby" Sorensen. He is survived by sons: William Sorensen of Westphalia, and Mike Sorensen (Laura) of Dow City; grandchildren: Amy (Craig) Crilly of Harlan and Nick Larson, Jackie Larson, Pat Nelson and Cody Nelson of Dow City; great grandchildren: Jazmine, Jonah and Jack Crilly all of Harlan; two brothers-in-law: Francis Schneider of Corley and Howard Schneider of Avoca; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held May 30, 2007, at Pauley Jones Funeral Home with Rev. Heather Ploen officiating. Honorary casket bearers were Rusty's three great-grandchildren: Jazmine Crilly, Jonah Crilly, and Jack Crilly. Casket bearers were Dan Schneider, Randy Grote, Dale Plagmann, Rex Buckley, Nick Larson, and Jamie Grote. Military rites were held by the Harlan American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 and Shelby County VFW Post No. 941 in the Harlan Cemetery.