

Bernard Stracke, 85

June 16, 1926 - May 22, 2012

HARLAN — Bernard Wilfred Stracke was born on June 16, 1926 to Henry and Mary (Coenen) Stracke in Westphalia. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia and graduated from St. Boniface Catholic School with the Class of 1943. He began his farming career after high school and was a lifelong farmer with the exception of his military service between December of 1950 and November of 1952.

Bernard was united in marriage to Barbara Shields on August 28, 1950 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Dunlap. Eight children were born to this union: Bob, Paul, Ed, Larry, Jerry, Jane, Phil, and Ann. Bernard loved playing any card game but especially Pitch, Cribbage, 500, Euchre, Pinochle, Gin Rummy, and 66 and would often choose to keep playing cards over eating, even if his favorites - fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy or sausage - were being served. He loved watching sports, especially baseball. Bernard was very active in the church, serving as trustee, the Parish Council, Regional Pastoral Council and Bishop selection committee. He also served on the Manilla High School Board of Education for a number of years, Knights of Columbus, and the Defiance and Westphalia American Legion Post No. 707. Bernard became a resident of Elm Crest Retirement Home in May of 2011 and it was there that he died on Tuesday, May 22, 2012, having attained the age of eighty-five years, eleven months, and six days.

Bernard was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, sisters, and their spouses: Alfons and Della Stracke, Joseph and Susan Stracke, Leonard Stracke, Norbert and Therese Stracke, Sabina and John Reisz, Laurina and Joseph Schmitz, Bernadine and Lee Ausman, and Rocco Nufrio. He is survived by his wife of nearly sixty-two years, Barbara Stracke of Harlan; children: Bob Stracke and his wife Jeanne of Edmond, OK, Paul Stracke and his wife Cheryl of Graham, WA, Ed Stracke and his wife Kris of St. Cloud, MN, Larry Stracke and his wife Stephanie of Sauk Rapids, MN, Jerry Stracke and his wife Janet of Cary, NC, Jane and her husband Joe Herbers of Manning, Phil Stracke and his wife Sara of Manilla, and Ann Langenfeld of Harlan; thirty-two grandchildren; twenty-two great-grandchildren; sister Marie Nufrio of Fountain City, IN; sister-in-law Bernice Stracke of Harlan; other family members and friends.

Rev. Chris Fontanini celebrated the 11:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial on Friday, May



Pauley

25, 2012 at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. Serving as casket bearers were Bob Stracke, Paul Stracke, Ed Stracke, Larry Stracke, Jerry Stracke, and Phil Stracke. Inurnment will be held at a later date at Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Defiance.

Jones
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY
(712) 755-3135 • (800) 831-6805
www.pauleyjones.com
Baldwin at 9th, Harlan, IA
Also in Avoca & Walnut