

## Alphonse "Al" Schechinger, 85

*Sept. 5, 1918 - Sept. 1, 2004*

**HARLAN** — Alphonse "Al" Bernard Schechinger, the son of Joseph and Christina (Schomer) Schechinger, was born Sept. 5, 1918, on a farm located north of Harlan. In 1920, his family moved to a farm north of Defiance. Al graduated from St. Paul's Catholic School in Defiance in 1937. He was employed at the United States Post Office and worked as a farm hand prior to enlisting in the United States Navy Aug. 2, 1942. He was stationed at Sampson Naval Training Center near Geneva, NY.



June 10, 1944, Al married Mildred Von Tersch in Defiance. Six children were born to this union, Robert, Jolene, David, Jim, Mark and Lee. After their marriage, they lived in Canandaigua, NY, until he transferred overseas to the Philippines in January of 1945. After the war, they operated the Highway Tavern in Defiance. In 1950, Al and Mildred began to farm near Panama. In 1966, they moved to Logan, where he managed the County ASCS Office. In 1972, they moved to Harlan where he managed G&R Feed and Grain until he retired in 1982. They became very active in St. Michael's Catholic Church. In 2003, Al and Mildred became residents of the Avoca Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Mildred died July 14, 2004. Al died Sept. 1, 2004, at the Avoca Nursing and Rehabilitation Center at age 85 years, 11 months and 27 days.

Al was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Mildred; and his half brothers and sisters, Martin, Elizabeth, Barbara, Johnny, Cecelia, Cunnie and Katherine, Ralph Grobmier, Leona Dotzler and Madeline Reidel. He is survived by his children, Robert (Norene) Schechinger of Panama; Jolene (Phil) Koesters of Harlan; David (Pamela) Schechinger of Bloomfield, NM; Jim (Mary) Schechinger; Mark and Deborah Schechinger and Lee and Tammie Schechinger, all of Harlan; 24 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Sept. 4, 2004, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan, with Rev. Robert Hoefler officiating and Rev. John Frost and Rev. Fred Reischl concelebrating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with her grandchildren, Teresa Mardesen, Joni Leinen, Anne Schoenauer, Gina Schechinger, Renee Schechinger, Jill Schechinger, Becky Steinke, Jenne Gregor, Dianne Heath, Heather Florell, Gaylen Petsche, Tammie Christianson, Nathan Finken, Danielle Finken and Brittni Finken honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were her grandchildren, Micah Finken, Jeffrey Schechinger, Joey Koesters, Eric Schechinger, David Koesters, Paul Schechinger, Michael Schechinger, Steve Schechinger and Matthew Schechinger. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.