

Virgil Schmitz, 86

July 14, 1917 - Oct. 31, 2003

NEOLA – Virgil Henry Schmitz, son of Henry and Mary (Kramer) Schmitz, was born July 14, 1917, near Westphalia. He attended St. Boniface Grade School. He helped out on the farm until he was drafted into the service in June 1942 through January 1946. He served under General Douglas MacArthur in New Guinea. After he returned from the service, he went to work in Omaha, NE. He worked at the Nebraska Furniture Mart for over 20 years.

He married Mary Miic of Lindsey, NE, April 18, 1943. They continued to live in Omaha until they built a home in Neola. They lived there until 2000 when they moved to Risen Son Christian Village Nursing Home in Council Bluffs. Virgil was a member of the Knights of Columbus and the American Legion. He died at the nursing home Oct. 31, 2003, at age 86.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary, Oct. 6, 2000; his parents; two brothers, Richard and Leroy; and four sisters, Stella Wingert, Lillian Blum, Eileen Schrader and Mary Jane Schmitz; four brothers-in-law, Isadore Wingert, Max Blum, Edward Kwapiszeski and John Schrader. Survivors include three sisters, Laura Schmitz of Marshfield, WI; Alice Kwapiszeski of Panama; and Naomi (Marcus) Gross of Harlan; and nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Nov. 3, 2003, at St. Patrick's Church in Neola, with Father Dan Kirby officiating. Burial was in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Neola. Casket bearers were Terry Blum, John Slobonik, Don Fischer and Tom Minahan.