

## SCHAFER, George Franklin



March 21, 1918 - Oct. 28, 2006

George Franklin Schafer, 88, Kokomo, died at home in the loving arms of family at 1:15 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, 2006. He was born March 21, 1918, at home in Liberty Township of Howard County. He was the second child of Oris DeWitt and Nina Belle Souter Schafer.

Along with his older sister, Marybelle, the family moved shortly after George's birth to the family farm in Howard Township. His younger sister, Margaret, was born shortly after. He was raised on the family farm by performing all the field work by man and horses.

He was a proud graduate of Howard Township High School, where he play basketball and baseball, and also served as class president.

On October 2, 1940, at Kokomo Zion Church he was united in marriage to Mary Louise Underwood Schafer. As a wedding gift to themselves, they purchased their first tractor, an International B. That winter, Mary bought lights for the tractor as an early birthday present for George. Two years later, Mary purchased a milking machine for George, so he would be able to do all the milking of the cows himself while she went to the hospital to give birth as they started their family.

George enjoyed all aspects of farming and farm life, such as milking cows, raising sheep, cattle and pigs, and growing corn, beans, wheat and tomatoes until the early 1960s. He then made the decision to specialize the farm operation in a start to finish hog operation, and raising corn and soybeans. Though he retired in 1990 physically from the farm duties, he still remained involved in farming interests and decisions until the end. In 1997, he opened his farm for the community to witness farming during the Howard County Extension Program Farm Venture. Several times through the years, school students visited the farm to see baby pigs and a hog operation.

He loved the Howard Township community and neighbors. He was very active in the annual Howard Township High School Reunion. He enjoyed gatherings and parties to support township activities and the quality of life in the immediate surrounding area. He was generous with his time to previously serve on the county Farm Bureau board, township advisory board and church advisory board.

George is survived by his children, Ronald L. Schafer, Roger D. Schafer, Jocena K. Schafer, all of Kokomo, and Melinda Schafer Fourez and her husband Steven W. Fourez, Fairmount, Ill. Also surviving are five grandchildren, Bret A. Witman and his wife Stacy, Greentown, Darcey L. Schafer, Brownsburg, Brandon D. Schafer and his partner Heather, Fishers, and Jeremy W. Fourez and Katelyn J. Fourez, Fairmount, Ill.; four great-grandchildren, Cheyenne M. Witman, Albert M. Schafer, Vera L. Schafer and Alec W. Fourez; and George's sister, Margaret and her husband John McKee, Bunker Hill.

Also surviving are significant loved ones in the Schafer family are all of George's Howard Township High School classmates, teachers, cousins, nephews and nieces, Bob Beeler, Alice M. Hoskins, Carolyn Price Schafer Kratzer, Rachel Vega, Donna Witman, Dee Carmicheal, Marvin Bontrager, Denny Kline, Ernest Wagler, Ben Bennett, Charlie Miles and Cathy Perry, and his end of life care givers Jo Bontrager and Shirley Powell.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Mary Louise Underwood Schafer on Jan. 16, 2006; sister, Marybelle Schafer Troyer;

daughter-in-law, Holly Wald Schafer; and granddaughter-in-law, Angel Marie Morrow.

Family and friends of George will lovingly remember that he was first a devoted participating Christian, secondly a loving and providing family man, and third as a passionate and devoted caretaker of animals and a tiller of the soil.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Kokomo Zion United Methodist Church, 5051 E. 400 North. Pastor John Hogsett will be officiating. Burial will follow in Memorial Park Cemetery.

Friends may call 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, at Ellers Mortuary Webster Street Chapel, 3400 S. Webster St., and one hour prior to the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to Kokomo Zion United Methodist Church or to the donor's favorite charity.

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