

Obituary

Michael E. Kozisek

Michael Emmanuel Kozisek was born on December 25, 1924 in Garrison, Nebraska to Michael F. and Antonia J. (Jisa) Kozisek, the youngest of five children and died suddenly Wednesday, April 16, 2008, at the Friend Manor in Friend, Nebraska at the age of 83 years, 3 months and 22 days. As a young boy Mike attended school in Tamora and Seward, receiving his high school diploma from Seward High School upon his return from Military Service. Mike was drafted into the US Army and served from May of 1943 through January of 1946 in the Pacific Theatre. Upon Mike's return from the service he began driving a truck and moved to the Norfolk area where he met Arvilla Brand, the love of his life. They were united in marriage on July 9, 1950 and to this union two children, Tom and Kathy were born.

Mike continued his career as an over-the-road truck driver until he retired. For many years, Mike leased his trucks to several large carriers including Crete Carrier, TransAmerican and others; and, for a time he managed Huston Truck Lines in Friend. Mike was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, a charter member of the Friend Country Club, American Legion Ford Banka Post #183, all of Friend, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #4755, Seward, Teamsters Union Local #554, Omaha, and was a lifetime member of Merrills Marauders. In his spare time, Mike occasionally played golf. He enjoyed watching Nebraska football on TV and in early years, Mike raised a large garden, sharing the bounty with family and friends. As a young man, he and several friends took a "houseboat" trip down the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, with many tales about weather and activities. He also collected guns and loved to hunt and fish, and especially enjoyed boating with family and friends on several Nebraska lakes. Mike was a kind and very generous man, especially with children, whom he loved to give coins for candy and he always helped those less fortunate.

He is survived by his wife, Arvilla, of Friend, son and daughter-in-law, Tom and Julie Kozisek, Crete, daughter and son-in-law, Kathy and Larry Hawkes, Gypsum, Kan., grandchildren, Justin Kozisek, Lincoln, Brittany Kozisek, Bellevue, Emily Hawkes, Scandia, Kan. and Kyle Hawkes, Salina, Kan., sister, Betty Oglesby, Florissant, Mo., brother-in-law, H.J. "Cy" Buell, Omaha, cousin, who was raised as a sister, Ilene and Roger Woebbecke, Shawnee, Kan., nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and friends

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Lewis Kozisek, sisters, Dorothy Jorgensen and Alice Buell.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 19, 2008 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Friend with Fr. David Bourek officiating. Interment was in the Seward Cemetery, Seward, with military services conducted by the Seward VFW Post #4755. A Rosary was held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 18, at Lauber-Moore Funeral Home, Friend. Visitation was from 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. on Friday at Lauber-Moore Funeral Home and one hour prior to service on Saturday at the church. Memorials have been established to Seward VFW Post #4755 or to the Friend American Legion Post #183. Pallbearers were Justin Kozisek and Kyle Hawkes, Charley Lindersmith, Keith Clouse, Al Herrera and Xavier Herrera. Donna Harding, organist, accompanied the congregation as they sang "Here I Am Lord", "Peace, Prayer of St. Francis" and "How Great Thou

Art". Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Lauber-Moore Funeral Home,
Friend. Condolences may be sent at laubermoores.com.