



Joseph Dirk

February 19, 1912 - September 17, 2005

Joseph Dirk, 93, Bismarck, died September 17, 2005 in Alton, Illinois. Services will be held at 9:30 AM Thursday at Church of St. Anne, Bismarck, with the Rev. Ed Wehner officiating. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 6:00 to 9:00 PM Wednesday at Eastgate Funeral Service where a Moose memorial service and rosary will be held at 6:00 that evening. Visitation will continue one half hour prior to the service at the church. Joseph Dirk was born and raised on the family farm 12 miles south of Raleigh, North Dakota on February 19, 1912. He was the first of ten children born to Daniel and Scholastica Dirk. Joe attended district school #34 in the Leahy District of Grant County. After completing the 8th grade, he farmed with his father until age 23. Joseph married Florence Kahl on January 15, 1938 by Bishop Vincent Wehrle in the Bishop's Chapel in Bismarck, North Dakota. They lived in Flasher, North Dakota, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, McIntosh, South Dakota and moved to Bismarck in 1951. Joseph was a talented carpenter and mechanic. He worked for the WPA in Raleigh, was an auto mechanic in Flasher, a machinist for Harley Davidson in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, owned and operated an automotive garage in McIntosh, South Dakota where he was also a deputy sheriff. After moving to Bismarck, North Dakota in 1951, Joseph worked for American Life and Casualty Insurance, several construction companies and the Dakota Brewery. He retired at the age of 75 after 20 years of employment with the University of Mary. He loved his job, the staff and students at the University of Mary. He believed education is a privilege and

made a commitment to education by being an active fundraiser and M Club member with the University of Mary. Mr. Dirk has always been interested in community and public service. He ran for the House of Representatives for the 49th Legislative District in 1980. He volunteered for the Democratic Party doing whatever needed to be accomplished; from stuffing envelopes to taking part in "Get the Vote Out" campaigns. He was an active lobbyist for the North Dakota Council of Clubs for 10 consecutive legislative sessions. Joe was an active Loyal Order of the Moose member. He joined the Bismarck lodge in 1951 holding several offices including Ritual Team member, Governor, Deputy Grand North Moose, and the distinguished honor of the Pilgrim Degree. Joseph was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Florence and a son Robert. He is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Patrick and Mary of Newport Beach, California and Larry and Marina of Winnetka, California; three daughters and sons-in-law, Mary Ann and Robert Holcomb of Alton, Illinois, Virginia and Terry Mincey of Wilmington, North Carolina and Sharon and Joseph Thomas of Waynesville, Missouri; a special friend and niece, Cil Deichert of Bismarck; 14 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren; three brothers and sister-laws, Anton and Evelyn of Bismarck, Erasmus and Emma of Mandan, Michael and Leona of Fargo; a brother Emanuel of Bismarck; three sisters, Helen Kahl of Bismarck, Lydia Brown of Arvada, CO and Edith Lehner of Spring City, Pennsylvania. Joseph loved his family, the outdoors and being active. In lieu of flowers, please send a contribution to the Joseph and Florence Dirk Scholarship Fund at the University of Mary.

Tribute Wall

KL

“ There are two things that come to mind when thinking of Uncle Joe. His love of family and his hearty laugh. As a kid I remember our families visiting back and forth more then any of the other cousins. Sharon and I sneaking into our back door and sitting on the steps trying to ease drop on our parents telling jokes and stories. Just as they would get to the "good stuff" they changed to German and then laugh. There isn?t anyway that I can tell you how much your parents have meant to me over the years. They both helped me to fill in spots in my past. I'll always remember the great sense of humor and pride of family they both had. God bless you all in this time of sorrow, but remember Uncle Joe is back in the arms of his heavenly family talking German at the good parts. Love Jack and Kathy Lenz

Kathy Schwalick Lenz - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Uncle Joe was a great guy. He and his family have had such a tremendous impact on so many people. The world was blessed to have him. We can only imagine your feelings - grief from the loss, peace for the relief of his pain, and joy for his reunion with Florence. Unfortunately, we experience the grief; hopefully we can feel the peace; and one day smile for the joy. Our thoughts are with you.

Steve & Nancy Deichert - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ID

“ Our deepest sympathy. Joe will be missed, but we have many good memories of him. I am sorry we couldn't be there to say a final goodbye. May he forever rest in peace.

Ivan and Dorothy Draskovic - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ *My deepest condolences. Many good memories.*

Larry Schwalick - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ *I am so sorry for your loss, and it's a big loss. I can only imagine the racket there has been up in Heaven since Uncle Joe got there. He has alot of people to visit, and fill in on his "trip" up there. All of you are in our prayers and hopes that your special memories will ease your pain. Love you always, Judy and Family*

judy deichert and family john and laura deichert - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM