

Nov. 22, 1928-April 30, 2014



OTTOVILLE — George J. Knippen, 85, of Ottoville died 7:56 a.m. Wednesday, surrounded by his wife of 58 years and all his children, at Sarah Jane Living Center, Delphos.

He was born Nov. 22, 1928, in Ottoville to George and Caroline (Miller) Knippen, Sr.

On Sept. 10, 1955, he married Jeanette Smith, who survives in Ottoville.

Also surviving are his children, Janice (Charles) Pohlman of Delphos, Karen (Dennis) Ricker of Ottoville, Debra (Timothy) Verhoff of Kalida, Doneta (Rex) Free of Panama City Beach, Florida, Kevin (Cindy) Knippen of Ottoville, Michael (Jackie) Knippen of Ottoville and Rita (Patrick) Klosterman of Brookville; a sister, Margaret Hesseling of Delphos; 19 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren with one on the way.

George is preceded in death by five sisters, Sister Mary Berchmans, Sister Mary Clara, Agnes Kehres, Lucille Pohlman and Sister Vita; four brothers, Father Carl Knippen, Sylvester Knippen, William Knippen, Sr., and Joseph Knippen.

George was a self-employed dairy farmer. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Ottoville, where he was a member of the parish council and had been an usher. He served as the director for the Farmers Mutual Aid Association and was a former member of the Delphos Knights of Columbus.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Ottoville, with Father Jerome Schetter officiating. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ottoville.

Visitation will be from 2-8 p.m. Friday at Love-Heitmeyer Funeral Home, Jackson Township, where a Scripture service will be held at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Putnam County Hospice or the charity of the donor's choice.