

Tait, James

James L. Tait, 76, of Pinnebog died Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2002, in the loving comfort of his family at home. He was born on May 26, 1926, at the home of his parents in Lake Township across the road from what would become his farm. He was the son of the late Charles "Leroy" and Florine (Pechette) Tait. After graduating from Pinnebog High School in 1944, he served in the United States Army in the Philippines during World War II, returning home in December 1946. On Jan. 25, 1947, he was united in marriage to Eleen Florence at St. Felix Catholic Church in Pinnebog. That summer, they moved to the farm in Chandler Township. He furthered his education studying agriculture under the GI Bill. Jim helped his dad with his trucking business and farm, as did his brothers. While farming, he worked also at Reimann Bros. Excavating of Fillion, the Kinde Cooperative, Elkton Box Factory, Goretski Excavating and with John Champagne at Pinnebog Electric for five years. After retiring from farming, he worked for the Village of Caseville part time until October 2001. Soon after his marriage, he joined the Knights of Columbus No. 1546 of Bad Axe and the Elkton VFW becoming a life member of both as well as the National Rifle Association. He was a member of St. Felix Catholic Church in Pinnebog serving on the board and as an usher. He was a past member of the Michigan Dairyman's Association. He joined the American Legion serving as commander, adjutant, chaplain, service officer and member of 40/8 for many years. He served as seventh district commander of the Legion, past commander and service officer of the VFW, past commander and adjutant of the Huron County Allied Veterans Council and served on the Huron County Veteran's Affairs Board. He was part of the Blue Devils Drill Team and took part in statewide competitions and assisted at more than 100 military funerals. Jim enjoyed farming, maintaining his home and landscape, helping others, and traveling. Jim and Eleen have been in 49 states and in Puerto Vallarta and Guadalajara, Mexico. They've been to Quebec, Niagara Falls and took a train to Hearst, Canada. They spent three winters in Florida and 11 in Texas. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Eleen; children, Jim and his wife, Millie, of Lapeer, Kathy Henderson of Caseville, Chuck and his wife, Ruth, of Bay City, Terry Blair of Caseville, Ruthie and her husband, Bruce, Margie Torrey and her husband, Mark, of Texas, Don of Titusville, Fla., Mary Pryor and her husband, Brian, of Owendale and Paulette Braun and her husband, Duane, of Elkton; 29 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; four brothers, Bud and his wife, Jeanie, of Caseville, David and his wife, Sue, of Caseville, Leon and his wife, Phyllis, of Kawkawlin and Bob and his wife, Norma, of Kinde; sister, Katie Leitch of Pontiac; many nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by twin siblings, Gerald and Geraldine. A funeral mass will be conducted at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 6, 2002, at St. Felix Catholic Church in Pinnebog. The Rev. Fr. Joseph Schabel and Sr. Mary Schwartz will officiate with burial in the church cemetery. Visitation is from 2 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the Champagne Funeral Chapel in Elkton and after 10:30 a.m. Friday at the church. Memorials may be given to the family discretionary fund.