



Leon H. Cranek

March 20, 1924 - April 11, 2011

Leon H. Cranek of El Campo died April 11, 2011 at the age of 84. He was born March 20, 1924 in Garwood to the late Louis V. Sr., and Julia Minarcik Cranek. He was a lifetime rice farmer, and recently planted his 66th crop.

He was an US Air Force veteran of WWII, and a 60 yr member of the American Legion Post 251; a 54 yr member of the Knights of Columbus and was in the KC Fourth Degree where he served as Past-Faithful Navigator, and was a member of the BPOE Lodge #1749. He served on board of directors for Commercial State Bank, was past-president of the board of directors for WCEC, he was a member of many area farmer co-ops, and was currently serving on the board for Rice Belt Ware House. In 1995, he was recognized as Man of the Year in Agriculture by Wharton County Youth Fair & Expo.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Lorraine Hubenak Cranek of El Campo; son Jeffrey Cranek and wife Laura of El Campo; daughters Sandra Cranek of Georgetown and Susan Bishop and husband Bill of Katy; grandchildren Neil Cranek, Robert Cranek, Jenna Hooker and husband Harrell, Kaylynn Bishop, and Ashton Bishop; great-grandchildren Samantha Cranek, and Hayden & Wyatt Hooker; sister Earlene Beken of Weimar and brother Louis Cranek, Jr. of Garwood.

He was preceded in death by his parents, son Lynn "Slim" Cranek, and

brothers Lester J. and James "Fritz" Cranek.

Visitation will be 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm Thursday at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, with a Wake Service and KC Rosary at 7:00 pm. Visitation will resume 8:00 am Friday morning at Triska Funeral Home until 1:00 pm. Funeral Mass will be 3:00 pm, Friday, April 15, 2011, at St. Philip Catholic Church with Rev. Gary Janak officiating. Entombment services with Military Honors will follow under the Auspices of the American Legion Post 251.

Serving as pallbearers are Neil Cranek, Robert Cranek, Ashton Bishop, Harrell Hooker, Thomas "Skeet" Cranek, Gary Priesmeyer, Mark Hubenak, and Gary "Bodock" Cranek. Honorary Bearers are Henry Beken, Kenneth "Kentuck" Cranek, James "Cotton" Cranek, Frank Cranek, Randy Waligura, Greg Lobpries, Billy Ray Krenek, Milton Minarcik, Melvin Parker & Dick Ottis and directors and employess of Rice Belt Warehouse; and former directors and employees of Commercial State Bank.

Memorial Donations are requested in Leon H. Cranek's memory for St. Philip Church Building Fund, St. Philip School Endowment Fund, or to the Charity of the donor's choice.