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Kleppinger Funeral Home

409 Broadway Jewell, Kansas 66949

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Thomas Joe Bartsch - Jewell, KS

Thomas Joe Bartsch, 56, passed away Tuesday, July 19, 2011 at the Mitchell County Hospital. He was born May 30, 1955 to George and Wanda (Tosh) Bartsch, at Beloit, KS.

Tom attended Kansas State University before returning to Jewell to work on the family farm and the family business (Bartsch Electric). Upon his parent's retirement, he then took over managing both the farm and business.

He was united in marriage to Melodee Gay Schulz on November 24, 1979, for 24 years. To this union two daughters were born, Amber and Lacey.

Tom enjoyed being an active member of the Jewell Masonic Lodge #11 and Scottish Rite of the ISIS Shrine, Salina. Tom also enjoyed watching and attending many sporting events, including always being present at his daughter's volleyball and basketball games, and track meets. One of Tom's greatest talents and hobbies was cooking and was known for his tasty Sunday dinners at home and his delicious deep fried Turkey at Thanksgiving. He also enjoyed helping out with the preparation of the BBQ for the Corn Show and Old Settlers.

Tom was united in marriage to Brenda K. Vogt on July 30, 2005, and they continued to reside in Jewell. Tom and Brenda enjoyed spending their time together camping and fishing at the lake, vacationing in Mexico and creating a great back yard. As grandchildren became a part of Tom's life he enjoyed being in their presence and watching them grow.

Tom is survived by his wife, Brenda Bartsch, Jewell, KS; daughters, Amber (Adam) Loomis, Jewell, KS and Lacey (Michael) Villmar, Lawrence KS. Step-children, Jennifer (Michael Eitzmann, Concordia KS, and Ryan (Ashton) Cates, Jewell KS; grandchildren, Ayden, Ashlyn and Avery Loomis, and Olivia and Carter Eitzmann. Tom also leaves a brother Steve (Marsha) Bartsch, Jewell KS and two nieces, Megan Bartsch, Chicago IL and Lawrin Bartsch, Denver CO. He was preceded in death by his parents George and Wanda (Tosh) Bartsch.

Memorial services will be August 1, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church, Jewell.

Memorials may be given to Lake Emerson.

Visitation will be Sunday evening, July 31st from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Kleppinger Funeral Home.

Kleppinger Funeral Home, 209 Broadway, Jewell, Kansas 66949 in charge of arrangements