



Francis "Skip" Knepler was born October 1, 1923 to Charles and Elizabeth Knepler and spent his years growing up on the family farm during the Great Depression. He had two brothers (Charles and Joseph) and five sisters (Betty, Ann, Marcella, Eileen, and Margaret). He graduated from New Berlin High School in 1941 and began working on the family farm. Over time, Skip and his brother Joseph took over the operation of the family farm outside New Berlin and primarily operated a grain and hog operation eventually farming about 800 acres and running about 2,500 head of hogs a year.

He married Mary Louise Hergenrother in 1958 and had three children, Patrick, Marylou, and Michael. He became a director and officer of the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Board in 1972 and served for nine years. During that time he served several years as a delegate to the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. He also

served on the board of directors of the Farmer's Grain Elevator in New Berlin throughout a period of expansion and purchasing another elevator. In addition to all the meetings he still managed to own and operate several apartment buildings.

In 1988 Skip retired from farming (as much as any farmer retires) and took up his new career playing golf and bridge. He continued to oversee the apartments and the farm.

After serving for over 20 years on the Sangamon County Farmland Assessment Committee he retired from it as well. After that he occupied his time playing golf, bridge, and spending valuable time with his grandchildren, Connor, Samantha, Tyler, Quinn, Rhys, Roisin, and Maddalena.

**2012 Recipient
Francis "Skip" Knepler
New Berlin, Illinois**