

## Theodore "Ted" Balster, 82

*Dec. 30, 1919 – April 26, 2002*

**SHELBY** – Theodore (Ted) William Balster was born Dec. 30, 1919, in Monticello, to William and Elsie Green Balster. Ted's father died before Ted was 5 years old and he and his mother returned to Shelby County. Elsie married Carl Mortensen, a widower with three sons of his own. The family farmed a few miles north of Shelby, where Ted attended school, graduating Shelby High School in 1937. He enlisted in the Air Force during WWII and was stationed in Wichita Falls, TX, before serving his country on the Island of Guam.

It was in Wichita Falls he met Kathyne Selvidge and they were married Aug. 8, 1944. After the war, they returned to farm near Shelby. Five sons were born to this union, Jim, Steven, Larry, Kennon and David. He was a member of the Shelby Presbyterian Church. After retiring from farming, they traveled in their travel trailer. They had lived the past three years in Clarinda, in the Eiler House, an assisted living center. He died April 26, 2002, at age 82 years, three months and 27 days.

Preceding him in death were his parents; his stepfather and a half-brother. He is survived by his wife, Kathyne; five sons, Jim (Kathleen) of Alpharetta, GA; Steven (Sherry) of Cedar Rapids; Larry (Gretchen) of Scottsdale, AZ; Kennon (Kathy) of Blanchard and David (Barbara) of Des Moines; eight grandchildren; four great grandchildren; a half-sister, Rose (Keith) Kay of Council Bluffs; a sister-in-law, Avis Mortensen of Griswold; three stepbrothers, George Mortensen (Pat) of Shelby; Robert Mortensen (Lois) and Hugh Mortensen (Wilma), all of Harlan.

Funeral services were held May 1, 2002, at the Shelby Presbyterian Church with Pastor Craig zum Brunnen officiating. Burial was in the Shelby Cemetery with military graveside rites by the Shelby American Legion Post #240. Casket bearers were Chuck Schumacher, Richard Mortensen, Brian Kay, Dean Luxford, Dave Robinson and Gary Kay. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.