

Earnest Behrend, 92 ✓

Oct. 11, 1911 - May 10, 2004

HARLAN – Earnest Leroy Behrend, son of William and Anna (Gaer) Behrend, was born Oct. 11, 1911, on a farm near Redline. He grew up on a homestead near Hereford, SD, and attended country school through the eighth grade.

After moving to Iowa, he married Fern Fiscus in March of 1936, in Audubon. To this union, two children were born, Eldred and Wendell. Fern died March 12, 1948, in Audubon.

Earnest married Marie Sachtjen in January of 1953, in Winner, SD. To this union two children were born, Wayne and Richard. They farmed in the Redline and Elk Horn area until moving to Harlan in 1992. Marie died May 29, 1997, in Elk Horn. Earnest died May 10, 2004, at his Harlan home at age 92 years, six months and 29 days.

Preceding Earnest in death were his parents; his first wife, Fern Behrend; his second wife, Marie Behrend; one son, Eldred Behrend; three brothers, Oliver Behrend, Phillip Behrend and Elmer Behrend; and one grandson, Todd Behrend. He is survived by three sons, Wendell Behrend and his friend, Darla Hall, of Kirkman; Wayne (Jolene) Behrend of Harlan; and Richard (Lorraine) Behrend of Walnut; one sister, Elizabeth Chafee of Carlisle, WY; nine grandchildren; two great grandchildren; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held May 14, 2004, at the Veteran's Memorial Auditorium in Harlan, with Jeff Thayer, Jack Henry, Mike Henry and Dirk Henry leading the service. Honorary casket bearers were Bill Henry, Bill Griggs, Oran Skaw, Bernard Wolf, Steven Ellenwood and Gary Jorgensen. Casket bearers were Craig Behrend, Tim Behrend, Scott Williams, Eric Behrend, Travis Behrend, Ryan Behrend, Nathan Behrend and Dallas Birkhofer. Burial was in the Redline Cemetery. Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.