

## Russell Block, 74

Nov. 17, 1929 - March 22, 2004

**THE VILLAGES, FL** – Russell Dean Block, the fourth son of Nels and Jessie Block, was born on a farm Nov. 17, 1929, near Irwin. He grew up during the hard times of the depression attending the Consolidated School in Kirkman until his family moved into Harlan in 1940. During his years at Harlan High, Russ participated in many high school "Gilbert & Sullivan" musicals and made the All-State Football Team. Graduating in 1947, he had a football scholarship to Simpson College. After one year at Simpson he went to the University of Iowa to graduate with a degree in Liberal Arts with a major in Economics in 1954 after serving two years in Europe during the Korean War. Upon his graduation, he was employed by the Phillips Petroleum Company as a sales representative in the Des Moines division office.



There he met and married at age 26, Donna Louise Rule. Four sons were born to this union. They moved to Webster City, in 1960, and began an association with the Luppess Oil Company which Russ purchased in 1969 after the death of Herman P. Luppess, changing the name to Block Oil Company. He continued to expand the sales and service of petroleum products in the community and throughout the area. Russ was active in the First Congregational Church as a choir member, trustee, deacon and youth leader. He was a past president of the Rotary Club, active in the Chamber of Commerce, served as a Cub Scoutmaster for three years, and took part in several musicals of the Webster City Theater Group. Russ sold Block Oil in 1989, and retired to Naples, FL. He died March 22, 2004, at his home in The Villages, FL, at age 74 from cancer.

Russ was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Donna; a son, William Bradford Block, who was born June 3, 1964 and died Jan. 13, 1965 at age seven months and 10 days and buried in Babyland in the Webster City Cemetery; and his brothers, Gene Block and Harold Block. He is survived by his brother, Nels Block, Jr. (Gwen), Harlan; his sons, Gregg Block (Cindy), Livermore; Jeff Block (Susan), Grayslake, IL; and Dan Block (Lori), Cedar Falls; as well as seven grandchildren; and sister-in-law, Jo Block, Harlan.

A memorial coffee for close family and friends will be held Saturday, May 1, 2004, at 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Harlan.