

Harlan, Iowa News Advertiser  
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## Lavern L. Johnson, 65

**HARLAN** — Lavern LeRoy Johnson, son of Clarence and Gladys Davis Johnson was born Feb. 26, 1922 at Moulton, IA. He attended rural school in Shelby county and graduated from the Harlan High School. He attended the Omaha Business College and during WWII, he served in the U.S. Army, where he acquired his love for flying. Following the war he married Dixie McBride and two children were born to this union. He worked in Omaha for a number of years. In 1969, he started the Universal Neon Sign Co. After selling his business, he was employed for Sky Harbor until his retirement in 1975. He was a member of the First Baptist Church, past president of the Omaha Businessmen Breakfast Club and was active in the PTA while living in Omaha. He married Ardith Carlson LaFond in 1977. They later moved to Harlan where he died at his home Oct. 16, 1987 at age 65 years, 7 months and 20 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Rollo Burdick. Survivors include his wife, Ardith of Harlan; son, Mark of Lincoln and daughter, Janel, Mrs Don Hansen of Omaha. Three step sons, Keith LaFond of St. Joseph, MI; Dan LaFond of Newton; and Andrew Lafond of Omaha and step daughter, Jane Neher of Gretna, NE. He is also survived by three granddaughters and six step grandchildren.

Funeral services were Oct. 19, 1987 at the First Baptist Church in Harlan with Rev. John Leggett, officiating. Burial was in the Evergreen cemetery in Omaha with Vic Smith, Bob Frazier, Don Thomson, Zane McBride, Iyle Knudsen and Robert Larson serving as casket bearers. Services were conducted by the Burmeister Funeral Home.