

Robert "Cobb" Jacobsen, 84

Feb. 19, 1927 - April 15, 2011

WEST DES MOINES — Robert E. "Cobb" Jacobsen died on Friday, April 15, 2011 in Des Moines. His children and wife of 59 years, Arlene, were at his bedside. Robert was born in 1927 to parents Nels and Lillian in Harlan. Simply known as "Cobb" to many friends and acquaintances — the nickname coined by his buddies during his teenage years—stuck with him during his more than 50 years of residence in the Harlan community. Prior to graduating from Harlan High School in 1947, Robert entered the Army. Intensely patriotic; though never called to active duty, he was extremely honored to wear a uniform representing his country and was a proud Vet.



Robert had two primary careers during his life. He delivered mail for the U.S. Postal Service for 33 years to rural Harlan, and rarely missed a delivery during that time. The motto "...through rain, sleet and snow..." wasn't just a slogan but a mission. But his real passion was as an entrepreneur. He enjoyed serving up ice-cream, hamburgers and assorted other goodies to thousands of guests and loyal customers as the owner of the Dairy Sweet Drive-In from 1969-79. Civic duty and athletics were a big part of Robert's life, too. He served in a number of civic organizations in Harlan, including the Veterans' Memorial Building, Lions Club, American Legion, and the Harlan Golf and Country Club. He loved to participate in sports as a young man. As he got older, he stayed invested in sports by serving as baseball umpire and basketball referee for many years. He was also an avid fan of his children's and grandchildren's athletic endeavors, attending as many games as possible. After retiring from the post office in 1980 there were brief stays in Colorado and Arizona before retiring fully in West Des Moines in 1986. He worked many years as a starter at Des Moines Golf and Country Club, but mainly spent his retirement years enjoying his children and grandchildren.

Robert is survived by his wife, Arlene and their four children, Roger (Janet) and Annette Krause (Rick) of West Des Moines, Rob (Jill) of Decatur, IL, and Andy (Janet) of Cedar Rapids; his sister, Dolores Wiley of Norfolk, NE; 10 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren and his friends at Hy-Vee. He leaves an incredible legacy highlighted by his tremendous loyalty as a husband and father, strong convictions and amazing work ethic. His unique sense of humor and feistiness will be sorely missed.

A Celebration of Life was held from 2 to 5 p.m. at Brooks Funeral Care, 7975 University Boulevard, Clive, on Thursday, April 21, 2011 with a time of remembrance service at 3:00 p.m. Inurnment was held at the Iowa Veteran's Cemetery with full military honors in Van Meter. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial on Robert's behalf to the Hospice of Central Iowa.

**Brooks Funeral
Care**

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