

Harold Joens, 82

April 18, 1919 – Jan. 7, 2002

HARLAN – Harold Peter, son of Walter Christian and Laura Schroeder Joens, was born April 18, 1919, near Arcadia. He attended country school near his home and worked on the family farm and for neighbors. In March of 1942, Harold entered the United States Army.

Dec. 24, 1942, he married Irene Ermal Davis at Papillion, NE, while on leave. Four children were born to this union. Harold and Ermal made their home in California while Harold completed his training. Ermal returned to Manilla when Harold was sent overseas where he served with the First Armored Division in North Africa, Sicily and Italy attaining the rank of Tech Sergeant. After he received his honorable discharge in September of 1944, he rejoined Ermal and they made their home near Manilla. He did custom farming, worked as a farm hand and trucked before becoming a mechanic in the mid 1950's. In the mid 1960's, he began working with Western Engineering Road Construction in Harlan and worked his way up to foreman before retiring in 1981. They moved to Harlan in 1974 and in 1984, Ermal became a resident of the Denison Care Center in Denison, where she died Jan. 26, 1994. Harold then moved to Denison for a short time before returning to Harlan. He was a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3517 and American Legion Post 22 in Manning. He was a member of the Hayes Township Schuetzen Verein at the Five-Mile House, earning first place in the King Shoot around 1941. Jan. 7, 2002, he died unexpectedly at Nebraska Health Systems in Omaha, NE, after being admitted the previous day at age 82 years, eight months and 20 days.

Besides his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Judy in infancy, a brother, Clifford Joens, and a grandson, Steven Joens. He is survived by three children, Roger Joens (Marsha) of Council Bluffs; Florence Fox of Fallbrook, CA; James "Bud" Joens (Sarah) of Houston, TX; four grandchildren, Tracy (Curt) Montgomery of Lincoln, NE; Jane (Jeff) Whannell of Council Bluffs; Tom Joens and Laura Joens of Council Bluffs; five great grandchildren, Steve, Taylor and Lauren Montgomery and Conner and Gemma Whannell; two brothers, Gilmore Joens (Marian) of Arthur and Robert Joens of Montrose, CO; a sister, Lois (Vertis) Hargens of LeMars; a special friend, Emogene Hansman of Denison; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Jan. 10, 2002, at the Ohde Funeral Home in Manilla, with Rev. Brian Sherman of the United Church of Manilla, officiating. Burial was in the Nishnabotna Cemetery, Manilla, with military honors by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3517 and American Legion Emil Ewoldt Post 22 of Manning. Casket bearers were Roger Joens, Tom Joens, Bud Joens, Jeff Whannell, Curt Montgomery and Jeff Joens.