

Bruno Johannsen, 97 ✓

May 7, 1910 - July 15, 2007

MESA, AZ – Bruno Bernhard "Joe" Johannsen was born May 7, 1910, on a farm 10 miles north of Walnut bordering on Prairie Rose Lake the son of Christian Frederick and Paulina Namanay Johannsen. He attended country school through eighth grade and graduated from the Walnut High School in 1929. He was also a graduate of Iowa State University at Ames achieving the degree of Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in the spring of 1934. Immediately after graduation he was employed by the John Deere Tractor Works Engineering Department at Waterloo.



Aug. 18, 1940 Joe married Shirley Colburn in Lincoln, NE. Shirley died March 23, 1983.

Joe then married Wilma DeBerg in Mesa, AZ, Oct. 13, 1983. Wilma died Nov. 28, 2003. In March of 1941 Joe was granted a leave of absence by the John Deere Company on being called to military duty as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force, serving 42 months in Hawaii, from May, 1941 to November, 1944. For the remainder of World War II he served in the New York Ordinance District and was discharged in March, 1945 as a Lieutenant Colonel. At that time Joe returned to the employment of Deere in Waterloo and was transferred in October, 1951 to the John Deere Plow Works in Moline, IL, retiring as manager of the Engineering Division in June, 1972. During the course of his employment he had been active in the development of improvements of existing equipment and plans for new equipment with more than 30 patents to his credit and substantially more shared with other engineering employees. During the course of his employment he had traveled to many countries developing tillage tools for the world wide market. In 1977, he and Shirley moved to Leisure World in Mesa, AZ where Joe was a charter member of the Leisure World Lions Club. He was also an active member in the Air Force Reserve and the Retired Air Force Reserve. He died July 15, 2007, at age 97.

Joe was preceded in death by his wives, Shirley and Wilma; his parents; his sister, Martha; and his two brothers, Herman and Arnold. He is survived by his daughter, Mary (Lyle) Babcock, Apple Valley, MN; two grandchildren, Scott Babcock, Lakeville, MN; Kate Babcock, Ames; a brother, Norman Johannsen of Walnut; and other relatives.

Memorial services were held July 22, 2007, at Breck Home in Bloomington, MN. Burial was in the Layton Township Cemetery in Walnut.