

Norval Kraetsch, 75

Dec. 17, 1928 - Jan. 3, 2004

COUNCIL BLUFFS – Norval Dale Kraetsch, son of Charles P. and Fredericka (Struss) Kraetsch, was born Dec. 17, 1928, in Watertown, SD. Shortly after his birth, Norval's family moved to Luverne, MN and this is where he attended school and later graduated. In 1950, Norval entered the United States Army where he served his country stationed in Germany during the Korean Conflict before being honorably discharged in 1952.

March 13, 1954, Norval married Alice Zimmerman in Luverne, MN. After their marriage, they settled in Avoca, where Norval began working for the Stan Olsen Car Dealership. Stan Olsen then located his dealership in Harlan and Norval followed continuing his work for Stan. In 1960, Stan Olsen again moved his dealership, this time to Council Bluffs, where Norval agreed to continue to work. Norval and Alice then moved to Oakland, where he was employed by Baller Ford. He next joined a partnership that formed A & W Motors, a car dealership in Avoca. Norval then went to work for Keast Chevrolet in Oakland before semi-retiring in 1991. He continued to work there part-time because he just enjoyed being with people. He was a past member of Grace Presbyterian Church and then later First Presbyterian Church, both in Council Bluffs. Norval and Alice both later became residents of Risen Son Christian Village in Council Bluffs, and this is where he died Jan. 3, 2004, at age 75 years and 17 days.

In addition to his parents, Norval was preceded in death by his sisters, Mabel Lorenzen, Violette Eghart, Charlotte Irwin and Ruth Beelmann. Norval is survived by his wife, Alice Kraetsch; his daughter, Rojene (Jim) Crigg; his granddaughter, Rachelle (Mike) Kayl, all of Council Bluffs; his sisters, Lola Jensen and Ione (Bud) Bush, both of Hills, MN; a brother-in-law, Delmar Lorenzen of Harlan; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Jan. 6, 2004, at Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Avoca, with Lay Assistant Wayne Paulsen officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery with the Avoca American Legion Post #227 conducting the military rites and Pastor Dwight Oswald officiating. Casket bearers were Tom Bush, Larry Lippold, Jerry Skoglund, Rodney Palmer, Harvey Metzger, Walt Keast and Steve Keast.