

Richard Ott, 83

Feb. 1, 1924 - May 21, 2007

IRWIN - Richard Jesse Ott, son of Philip and Esther Freie Ott, was born Feb. 1, 1924, on a farm in Boone County. He attended school in Boxholm. After graduating he began working on the family farm. In 1943, Richard enlisted in the United States Army and served in the Army occupation of Japan during World War II. He attained the rank of Corporal before receiving his honorable discharge in 1946.

During his service in the United States Army, Richard married Daphne Leotta Pruitt Oct. 20, 1944, in Boxholm. Four children were born into this union. Upon his return to Iowa, he enrolled at Simpson College and earned his bachelor's degree in 1950. He began working as a teacher in Joice and attending a master's degree summer school program at Drake University. He received his master's degree in 1954 and worked as a teacher and school administrator in Joice for three years, Britt for one year, and Wadena for three years. For twelve years he served Modale/West Harrison school district as superintendent. Richard and Daphne moved to Irwin in 1970. Richard retired from the Irwin Schools in 1986 where he had served as superintendent. He was a member of the Methodist Church, Masonic Lodge, and American Legion. As his health began to fail he was able to remain at home in Irwin with the loving care of his family and hospice. He died there May 21, 2007, at age 83 years, 3 months and 20 days.

Besides his parents, Richard was preceded in death by two brothers Clifford V. Ott, and Vern Ott and wife Opal. He is survived by his wife Daphne Ott of Irwin; two daughters: Juanita Ott of Indianola; Cathy Lucinda (Cindy) (Roy) Skarin of Indianola; two sons: Richard Ott II (Donna) of Memphis, NE; and Philip Ott (Cathy) of Castle Rock, CO; nine grandchildren; great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Virginia Ott of Nebraska City, NE; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held May 24, 2007 at the United Methodist church in Irwin with Pastor Keith Pals officiating. Casket bearers were Brent Ott, Nicholas Ott, Richard Ott, III, Cory Sodorff, Jay Sharpe and Roy Skarin. Burial was in the Glenwood Cemetery in Ogden with Military Honors by the Boone Veteran's Council. Ohde Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.