

Raymond Parks, Jr., 62

Oct. 18, 1941 - Nov. 2, 2003

ELK HORN – Raymond Joseph, son of Raymond J. Parks, Sr. and Ada (Morrison) Parks, was born Oct. 18, 1941, in Onawa. He attended one-room schoolhouses in Crescent and Underwood. Following his schooling, Ray enlisted in the United States Marine Corp where he served from 1959 to 1963. He attended basic and advanced military training at Camp Pendleton, CA, and served as a military policeman in Hawaii. After his honorable discharge, he returned to the family farm in Crescent.

He married Ramona Ann (Espinoza) Brisbois in 1968 in Omaha, NE. They lived in Minden, Beebeetown and Neola, where Ray worked as a farmer. He then managed a 4-Sons gas station in Neola for four years before starting to drive truck cross-country. In 1992, Ray retired from his last job at Bil-Corn (Barrier's Stables) in Neola due to health concerns. In 1995, Ray and Ramona moved to Elk Horn where they purchased an acreage just south of town. As Ray's health began to fail, he entered the VA Hospital in Omaha, Sept. 8, 2003. After 7 1/2 weeks in ICU he wished to return home to be surrounded by his family. With the help of hospice, he was granted that wish Oct. 29, 2003, and died at home Nov. 2, 2003, at age 62 years and 15 days.

Preceding Ray in death are his parents; sister, Bonnie Ford of Council Bluffs; and brother, Russell Parks of Oklahoma. He is survived by his wife, Ramona Parks of Elk Horn; eight children, Raymond Joseph Parks III (R.J.) (Katy) of Ankeny; Sandra Parks of Ankeny; Susan (Geoffrey) Francis of Asbury; Paul Brisbois (Wendy) of Beaverdale; Julia (Jeff) Casson of McClelland; James Brisbois (Kathy) of Wichita, KS; Joe Brisbois (Angie) of Persia; and David Brisbois (Sheryl) of Persia; 16 grandchildren; 1 great grandchild; sister, Linda (Derrick) DeWolf of Council Bluffs; and two brothers, Clarence Parks and Darryl Parks, both of Council Bluffs; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Services were held at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Kimballton Nov. 5, 2003, with Pastor John Swenson officiating. Casket bearers were David Brisbois, Joseph Brisbois, James Brisbois, Paul Brisbois, Geoffrey Francis, Jeffrey Casson and R.J. Parks. Burial was at the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery at Kimballton.