

Ernest R. Petersen, 85

June 21, 1915 - Jan 5, 2001

HARLAN - Ernest Russell Petersen was born June 21, 1915, to Emily (Hess) and George L. Petersen at Jacksonville. He was baptized and confirmed at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville. He received his elementary education in a Jacksonville country school, graduating with the Audubon High School Class of 1932 of Audubon. Following graduation, he worked in Harlan for several years.

Oct 14, 1939, he married Clare Leinen at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. To this union, three sons were born. In 1941, he received training as a Commercial Pilot, and from 1943 to 1944 was an instructor at the Burnham-Miller Flying School in Omaha, NE, where he taught Aviation Cadets how to fly. Enlisting in the Army Air Corp in July 1942, he did not experience active duty until September 1944. He served during World War II until April 1946. Following his years in the service, Ernest was employed as a pilot for Western Engineering in Harlan, and later for International Harvester. He then started his own business, Ernie Motor in Harlan, later accepting a position at Harlan Auto Mart. In 1969, Ernest returned to Western Engineering where he worked as a construction foreman until his retirement in 1980. He died Jan 5, 2001, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age eighty-five years, six months and fifteen days.



In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Leonard and Roy and his sister Vernie Nielsen. He is survived by his wife, Clare Petersen of Harlan; his sons, Craig Petersen of Madison, NE, Kevin Petersen (Rita) of Missouri Valley, and Brent Petersen (Barbara) of Blair, NE; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a sister, Rose Eggers of Harlan, nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Jan 8, 2001, at Pauley Funeral Home with Rev. Howard Fitzgerald, pastor of St. Michael's Catholic Church, officiating. Burial was held in the Jacksonville Cemetery with Katie Petersen, Joshua Petersen and Kyle Petersen honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Mark Rold, Christopher Petersen, Brett Rold, Drew Petersen, Kelly Petersen, Emily Petersen, Lindsey Petersen and Travis Petersen. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.