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Kenneth Petersen, 79

Oct. 21, 1922 – Feb. 28, 2002

AVOCA – Kenneth Eugene Petersen, Red "Beautiful Sunshine" Petersen was born Oct. 21, 1922, on a farm in Pleasant Township, Pottawattamie County, the son of B. Carl and Megda Moelck Petersen, and was the eldest of three children in the family. He also had a half brother and half sister. He attended school in Avoca and graduated with the class of 1940.

Red married Mildred Carroll Sept. 1, 1945. They were the parents of two children, Lester and Carol. They owned and operated a farm southwest of town. He farmed in the Avoca area until his retirement in 1997. He was a member of Shelby Writers Bloc, Trinity Lutheran Church and Mt. Nebo Masonic Lodge #297. He died at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, Feb. 28, 2002, at age 79 years, four months and seven days.

His parents and a sister, Betty McCool, preceded Red in death. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Mildred of Avoca; his son, Lester (Janet) of Avoca; his daughter, Carol (Richard) Smiley of Parkersburg; one sister, Norma (Willis) Bladt of Avoca; his grandchildren, Lisa (Steve) Hart, Patrick Petersen and Daniel Petersen (Susan); his step grandchildren, Tim (Traci) Miner, Penny Miner, Wendy (Steve) Nevins, Ryan (Alicia) Smiley, Erik Smiley and Emily Smiley; his great granddaughter, Kristian Hart; five great grandchildren; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 5, 2002, at the Trinity Lutheran Church with Pastor Lou Hoger and Lay Assistant Wayne Paulsen officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were David Klindt, Robert Kixmiller, Sr., Eugene Bintz, Jack Bornholdt, Kenneth Martin and Perry Kelley. Casket bearers were Daniel Petersen, Wray Carroll, Steve Hart, Dallas Klindt, Robert Kixmiller and Mark Wiese. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.