

Lester Petersen, 77

Feb. 15, 1926 - Nov. 28, 2003

HARLAN – Lester Valdamar Petersen, the son of Wilhelm and Florence (Nelson) Petersen, was born Feb. 15, 1926, on a farm near Jacksonville. He attended country school at Jackson No. 2 and Jackson No. 8 and grew to adulthood on the family farm. Lester worked for Marcussen Brothers in Jacksonville after finishing school. He was inducted into the United States Navy serving his country during World War II. His Navy service included the battle of Okinawa. Upon receiving his honorable discharge, he started a trucking business and feed store in Jacksonville. His brother, Ernest, joined him in the business and it was named Petersen Brothers Feed and Grain. Eventually they added a grain elevator to the business that still operates successfully today. He was also dedicated to his farming operation.



Lester married Virginia Rose Hansen Aug. 17, 1950, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville. Two sons were born to this union. Lester was a life member of Harlan American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 and Shelby County Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 941. Lester and his wife of over 53 years have been lifetime members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. He died Nov. 28, 2003, at Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha, NE, at age 77 years, nine months and 13 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Virginia; his sons, Craig and Dennis (Mary); and grandson, Dylan Petersen, all of Jacksonville; two sisters, Laverne Klindt of Harlan and Doris Hansen of Elk Horn; and one brother, Ernest of Kimballton; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 2, 2003, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, with Rev. Henry Flessner officiating. Military rites were conducted in the Jacksonville Cemetery by the Harlan American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 and the Shelby County Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 941 with Steve Hansen, Virgil Jensen, Monte Hansen, David L. Christensen and Jerald J. Christensen honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Mark Smith, Wayne Petersen, Bob Scheel, Edward Andersen, Carl Petersen and Kevin Hansen. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.