

Charles Edward Phifer, Jr., 70

Dec. 16, 1931 - April 16, 2002

HARLAN - Charles Edward Phifer, Jr., son of Charles Edward and Lois Fern (Shurbundy) Phifer, was born Dec. 16, 1931, in Dundy County, NE. After attending school through sixth grade, he entered the workforce full time. He was an active member of the United States Air Force from 1954-57, stationed at Parks AFB in San Francisco, CA; he then held inactive status from 1957-63.

March 24, 1956, Charles married Elsie E. Abrahams at Trinity Lutheran Church in Blair, NE. The couple lived in West Point, Scribner and later, Fremont, NE. Charles spent his early years farming, and was then employed by the Campbell Soup Company for 10 years. He had a 25-year career with the Fremont Department of Utilities, where he worked in maintenance. He retired in 1994, and he and Elsie moved to Harlan, in March, 1995. He was a member of Peace Lutheran Church in Harlan. Charles and Elsie started the Pilot Parent Program of the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC), and were active in the Eastern Nebraska Foster Parents Association. He died of lung cancer April 16, 2002, at his home in Harlan at age 70 years and four months.

Preceding him in death were his parents; one half-brother, David Waterman, and an infant sister, Delores Fern Phifer. Survivors include his wife of 46 years, Elsie Phifer of Harlan; five sons, Daniel Phifer of Lincoln, NE; David (Valerie) Phifer of Mannford, OK; Fred (Jan) Phifer of Harlan; Jeff Phifer of Lincoln, NE and Michael Phifer of Glenwood; two daughters, Alice (Scott) Hemmingsen of Audubon and Hyla Ann (Robert) Barnett of Aurora, CO; one sister, Dorothy Christensen of St. Paul, NE; one step-sister, Kennetha Perry of Lincoln, NE; 16 grandchildren; three great grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held April 19, 2002, at Peace Lutheran Church in Harlan, with Vicar Merlene Ostebee officiating. Casket bearers were Daniel Phifer, David Phifer, Fred Phifer, Jeff Phifer, Nicholas Phifer and Phillip Coffman. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery. Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.