

## Harold F. Trafton, M.D., 78

Nov. 7, 1917 - June 1, 1996

**CO. BLUFFS** - Harold F. Trafton, M.D., son of Dr. G.M. and Lillian Wiss Trafton, was born Nov. 7, 1917 in Chrisman, IL. He moved with his family to Paris, IL where he graduated from Paris High School. He then attended and graduated from the University of Illinois School of Arts and Sciences. After graduation he attended and was awarded a medical degree from the University of Illinois Medical School in 1941, serving his residency at City Hospital in St. Louis, MO.

Dr. Trafton married Bertha M. Beetham of Spooner, WI in St. Louis, MO Feb. 2, 1942. They had five children. He joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and served overseas during WW II, attaining the rank of Captain and becoming a flight surgeon. After the war, he returned to St. Louis to complete his residency. Moving to Co. Bluffs in 1948, he joined the Cogley Clinic and started his practice in medicine and surgery. He was a member of the staffs of Mercy Hospital and Jennie Edmundson Hospital as well as other hospitals in the surrounding area, including the communities of Harlan, Glenwood and Mo. Valley. He was a Board Certified Surgeon and member of the American College of Surgeons and the International College of Surgeons. He was an Associate Professor at Creighton University training medical students in the Medical School's residency program. Dr. Trafton served as president of the Pottawattamie County Medical Society and Iowa Academy of Surgery. He served on the board of Iowa Blue Cross, Blue Shield and belonged to the Flying Physicians and the Flying Fools. He was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church. He and Bee have continued to make Co. Bluffs their home since his retirement in Oct. of 1991. He died at his home June 1, 1996 following a long illness.

He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Bee; daughter, Pat Jones of Harlan; daughter, Mary Kay (Sal) Carta of Omaha; daughter, Bette (Randy) Schmidt of Co. Bluffs; son, Harold (Harry) of Underwood; daughter, Teresa (Gerry) Blackburn of Denver, CO; sister, Dorothy (Guy) Best of Albuquerque, NM; 15 grandchildren, nine great grandchildren; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Services were held June 5, 1996 at Beem-Belford Chapel in Co. Bluffs with Rev. Paul Monahan officiating. Graveside rites were conducted the American Legion Rainbow Post #2. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery in Co. Bluffs with F.S. Goniubol, M.D.; Robert Donlin, M.D., Robert Fryzek, M.D., Justin Petersen, Jeff Petersen and Earl Madsen honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Jeffrey Carta, John Carta, Jerry Carta, Richard T. Jones, Michael Jones and James Hoag, Jr.