

Joseph Torres, 87

July 21, 1914 - March 30, 2002

AVOCA - Joseph Torres was born in Silao, Gto, Mexico, July 21, 1914, to Bedardo and Maria Manriquez Torres. The family moved to Avoca, where two more children were born. When Joe was four, his mother died in the flu epidemic, so Bedardo returned to Mexico to find a new wife. He then married Constanca Arriza and returned to Avoca, where nine more children were added to the family, Joe being the oldest in this family of 12. He graduated from Avoca High School with the class of 1932, and worked for Swift and Company after high school. While working his route, he met Leora Kuhr.

Oct. 5, 1940, in the Avoca Catholic Parsonage, Leora and Joe were married. He entered the United States Army in January of 1943, and served for 3 1/2 years in the 133rd General Hospital Unit as a surgical technician. His unit was one of the major surgical units to receive the casualties from the Battle of the Bulge during World War II. After his discharge from the Army, he was in the Reserves for 17 years. He and Leora were the parents of a daughter, Cheryl. Joe worked as a deputy sheriff in Pottawattamie County for 13 years, retiring in 1975. He was on the Avoca City Council for three years and had served on the Trinity Lutheran Church Council. He was a 20 year WWII Army retiree, a member of the National Sheriff's Association, the Elderberries, the Historical Museum, the American Legion of Avoca, and the Amvets of Walnut. Joe died suddenly at St. Joseph Hospital, Omaha, NE, March 30, 2002, at age 87 years, eight months and nine days.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his sisters, Ann Garcia and Marie Torres, and a brother, Timothy Torres. He is survived by his wife, Leora of Avoca; a daughter, Cheryl (Dick) Johnson of Lincoln, NE; two grandchildren, Chris of Los Angeles, CA and Kellie of Oxford, OH; eight brothers and sisters, Trinidad Osbahr of Avoca; Frances (A.J.) Tombrinck; Kathleen (Neil) McCoy, all of San Diego, CA; Louella Torres of Atchinson, KS; Emil Torres (Ruth) of Omaha; Bruno Torres (Brenda) of Houston, TX; Frank Torres (Angela) of Madrid, Spain and Tom Torres of San Francisco, CA; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held April 3, 2002, at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Avoca, with Pastor Lou Hoger and Pastor John Rinde officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery. Casket bearers were Russell Torres, James Torres, Rodney Osbahr, Leroy Osbahr, Marty Osbahr and Merlin Osbahr. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.