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Vernon Vrtiska, 80 ✓

Jan. 31, 1925 - July 10, 2005

HARLAN — Vernon Vester Vrtiska, the son of John A. and Alma (Zelenka) Vrtiska, was born Jan. 31, 1925, at rural Violet, NE. He graduated from Pawnee High School in Pawnee City, NE. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Nebraska (UNL) and a Masters degree in Education from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, NE. Vernon taught high school Biology and Physics for 32 years in Persia, Underwood, and Harlan.

July 22, 1961, Vernon married Vernice Ann Hill at the Exira Lutheran Church. After their marriage, they resided in Harlan. He was a member and a board member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, member and past president of the Harlan Community Library Board, and also a member of NEA, ISEA, and HEA. He loved music, particularly jazz, and played the trombone in the UNL band and in various dance bands. He died July 10, 2005, at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, after a two and a half year valiant battle with leukemia at age 80 years, five months and 10 days.

In addition to his parents, Vernon was preceded in death by his brother, Elmer; sister, Alice, and her husband, Marvin Hays; and mother-in-law, Ann Hill. Survivors include his wife, Vernice of Harlan; sister-in-law, Marjorie Vrtiska of Pawnee City, NE; nieces and nephews from across the United States.

Funeral services were held July 13, 2005, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, with Rev. Mark Jamison and Rev. Heather Ploen officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Vernon L. Foje, Bill Strabala, Ronald Rinne, Jerry Hopper, JP Findlay and Terry Hopper honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Wayne Raasch, Chuck Branstetter, Emil Beranek, Phil Berryhill, Vernon Rinne and Larry Tweedt. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

