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William Zimmerman, 80

March 23, 1925 - May 4, 2005

AVOCA — William James Zimmerman was born March 23, 1925, at Avoca, son of Clarence and Meta Bornholdt Zimmerman, and was one of three children in the family. He attended school in Avoca and graduated in 1942 from Avoca High School. He worked for the E.A. Brown gas station until entering the military Jan. 28, 1944. William served with the Army Engineers during World War II in both the European and Asiatic-Pacific Theatre of War. He received one battle star and other medals for his service time. He was discharged April 29, 1946, as a Technician Fifth Grade. Upon his discharge, William returned to Avoca and worked for E.A. Brown.

William married Audrey Turk Oct. 14, 1967, in Avoca. They built their own station in 1957, Zimmerman Oil Company, and ran a very successful business until they retired in 1989. William was a member of the Rotary Club for 34 years and was a Rotary Paul Harris fellow. He was a lifetime member of the American Legion and V.F.W., serving as past Commander and Adjutant of the Legion, and was a member of the Pottawattamie County WWII Last Mans Club. He also served on the Pottawattamie Fair Board. He received the Economic Development Award from Avoca Business and Professional. Bill entered the Avoca Nursing and Rehab Center April 29, 2005, at it was there that he died May 4, 2005, at age 80 years, one month and 11 days.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Audrey, of Avoca; a brother, Elmer Zimmerman (Nancy) of Fischers, IN; a sister, Alice Kraetsch of Council Bluffs; Good Samaritans Steven Pankonen, Elaine Pankonen, Miles Pankonen (Sara) and their daughter, Maddison, Matthew Pankonen and Martin Pankonen; and other relatives.

Graveside services were held May 9, 2005, at the Graceland Cemetery with Pastor Nancy Ross-Hullinger officiating with military rites by American Legion Post #227. Pauley Jones Funeral Home, Avoca Chapel, in charge of arrangements.