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## **Donald Joseph Dea, 63**

**Dec. 29, 1928 — Aug. 12, 1992**

**SHELBY** — Donald Joseph Dea was born in Red Valley in Pottawattamie county near Shelby, Dec. 29, 1928. He was the son of William and Cecilia Dargin Dea and was one of seven children in the family. He was raised in the Shelby area and attended school in Shelby where he completed the 8th grade. He then attended Dowling High School in Des Moines for the 9th and 10th grade, returning to Shelby to graduate in 1946. He attended Peru State Teachers College and obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Studies and P.E. It was there he met his future wife, Beverly Rae Hauptman.

They were married April 16, 1951 in Dayton, OH., and to this union 12 children were born. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1950, completed Officers Training School and then served in Iceland for one year. He earned his wings as a navigator and was an instructor in Navigation at Ellington Air Force Base in Houston, TX. In 1957, he and his family returned to the Shelby area where he started farming and recently retired due to poor health. He died at Myrtue Memorial Hospital in Harlan, Aug. 12, 1992, at age 63 years, 7 months and 14 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Robert and James Dea; a sister, Cecilia Graeve, Beverly's parents, Herman and Marie O'Neil Hauptman; and three brothers-in-law, Herman Hauptman Jr., J. Marvin Hunzeker and John J. Fulop. Survivors are his wife, Beverly; and their children, David (Nina) of Laconia, N.H.; Dana (Sheillia) of Lynch, NE.; Donald (Sally) of Auburn, NE.; Duane of Shelby; Deanna (Louis C. ) Dittmar, Jr. of Omaha, NE.; Denise (Timothy) Tuel of Shelby; Debra (Donald) Schechinger of Harlan; Doreen of Co. Bluffs; Dennis of Shelby; Delia of Stuart, NE.; Darren (Amy) of Anchorage, AK., and Derrick of Lincoln, NE.; 20 grandchildren; 2 step-grandchildren; two brothers, Richard Dea (Esther) of Avoca; and John Dea (Helen) of Shelby; a sister, Mary (William) Zimmerman of Co. Bluffs; 37 nieces and nephews; a brother-in-law, Eugene Graeve of Omaha, NE.; five sisters-in-law, Sarene (J. Gordon) Button of Springfield, OH.; Reba Hunzeker of Longmont, CO.; Leatrice Fulop of Mogadora, OH.; Verda and her husband (H.B.) Dyketra of Longmont, CO.; and Arlene Hauptman of Wichita Falls, TX., and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Aug. 15, 1992, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Avoca with Fr. Edward Kelly, officiating. Burial was in the Graceland cemetery in Avoca. Casketbearers were William Boettger, George Wise, Charles Kock, Vernon Bauer, Mick Denning, and Tony Wingert. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.