

Lawrence Dittmer, 84 ✓

Aug. 15, 1921 - May 10, 2006

SHELBY — Lawrence Merle Dittmer was born the oldest son of John and Fern Dittmer Aug. 15, 1921, near Minden. He attended country school Silver Dell #6 for eight years and then graduated from Shelby High School in 1939. He was engaged in farming before going into the military. He enlisted in the 542 Army Airborne stationed at Fort Benning and Fort Bragg. Sergeant Dittmer earned said rank and Jump Master after 27 jumps during his paratrooper training. Upon returning after the war, he rented a farm southeast of Minden.

In February of 1948, he married Immanuel nurse, Alice Jean Bittle from Harlan. This union continued for nearly 58 years. In 1959, they purchased a farm west of Shelby where they lived until finally moving into town in 1993. He continued his devotion of tending and planting trees and spring crops until recently. Organizations in which he actively participated are as follows: Shelby United Methodist Church, West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation Commissioner, Shelby School Board, Farm Bureau Harrison County, Carstens' Farm and Shelby Kiwanis. He died May 10, 2006, at age 84.

Lawrence was preceded in death by his parents and wife, Jean. He is survived by his son, David (Leora) Dittmer of Minden; daughter, Joan (Myron) Halverson of Sioux City; son, Tim (Tracy) Dittmer of Neosho, MO; 13 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brothers, Gayle (Juanita) Dittmer of Bella Vista, AK and Willard Dittmer of Shelby; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held May 13, 2006, at the Shelby Methodist Church with Pastor Orris Drake officiating. Burial was in the Shelby Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were Hailey Dittmer, Logan Dittmer, Alexa Dittmer and Miranda Dittmer. Casket bearers were Weston Dittmer, Jonathan Dittmer, Tiffany Hall, Jason Dittmer, Benjamin Hall, Jonathan Halverson, Colburn Dittmer, Nathan Hall and Nathan Halverson. Knutson Family Chapel in charge of arrangements.