

Kenneth Fredrechsén, 85

March 1, 1919 - Dec. 11, 2004

WALNUT — Kenneth Lewis Fredrechsén, son of Lewis and Ella (Feldhahn) Fredrechsén, was born on his parents' farm in rural Walnut March 1, 1919. He grew up on the farm while attending country school at Layton Township #1. He graduated from Walnut High School with the class of 1935 shortly after his 16th birthday. After high school, he helped with the family farm and also attended Iowa State University's Agricultural Short Course for two winters. In 1939, he moved to California to work with his uncle in the shipyards. In 1941, he returned home to Walnut. In February 1942, he entered the United States Army where he served in Hawaii until he was accepted into the Army Air Corps. After the number of Air Corps members was reduced, he returned to service with the Army where he served on the European front. He fought at the Battle of the Bulge and was part of the unit that liberated the Buchenwald Concentration Camp in Germany. He was honorably discharged from the United States Army in December 1945 and was awarded a Bronze Star for bravery. Following his service, he returned home to farm.

Feb. 10, 1947, Kenneth married Margaret Caroline Koll in Walnut. They were the parents of one daughter, Nancy. He and Margaret moved onto the family farm that was recently designated an Iowa Century Farm. Kenneth was a lifelong farmer. He also embraced new farming technologies. He was very active in his community. He was a member of the American Legion, the AmVets, and the Pottawattamie County Last Man's Club. He was a member of the Masons where he was a Past Master of the Morro Lodge #559 of Walnut and he was later a member of the Grove Lodge of Marna. He was a Worthy Patron of Eastern Star. He was a member of the Za-Ga-Zig Shrine and the Nishna Valley Shrine Club. He was also a lifetime member of the Peace United Church of Walnut. He served many years on the board of the Peace Haven Retirement Home in Walnut. He was a founding member of the Cass County Cattleman's Association. He was also a 4-H leader, a member of the East Pottawattamie Soil and Conservation Board, the Pottawattamie County Zoning Board and the Atlantic Lions Club. He died Dec. 11, 2004, at the Cass County Hospital in Atlantic, at age 85 years, nine months and 10 days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret, Jan. 16, 1998. He is survived by his daughter, Nancy (Jim) Pellett of Atlantic; his grandchildren, Bradley Pellett (Kristy) of Atlantic; Marci (Andrew) Loder of Bellingham, WA; Beth (Brian) Levine of Laurel, MD; and Michael Pellett (Stacey) of Geneseo, IL; his great grandchildren, Connor and Caroline Pellett; Madeline and Sebastian Kenneth Loder; and Carter Pellett; his sister, Marion Bayle of Amarillo, TX; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 14, 2004, at the Peace United Church of Christ in Walnut, with Rev. V. Howard Campbell officiating. Burial was in the Layton Township Cemetery, Walnut. Honorary casket bearers were David Koll, Wayne DeBord, Albert Schirm, Michael Bayle, Daryl Bayle, Dwayne Jensen, Stephen Koll and Russell McNees. Casket bearers were Bradley Pellett, Andrew Loder, Michael Pellett, Phillip Knapp, Brian Levine and Terry Nieman. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Walnut, in charge of arrangements.