

Douglas Holtz, 65

Oct. 25, 1936 - Oct. 4, 2002

AVOCA - Douglas Eugene Holtz was born in Avoca, Oct. 25, 1936, at his parents' home, son of Lawrence and Edith Kelgard Holtz. He attended grade school and high school in Avoca, graduating with the Class of 1954. After graduation, he attended the Commercial Extension College in Omaha, NE, for one year. He worked for Peter Kiewit Construction Company as the secretary for the International Union of Operating Engineers.

Doug married Iva Marie Anderson Dec. 29, 1956, at the Presbyterian Church in Avoca. To this union four daughters were born. He went into the Pontiac New Car dealership with his father in 1957. He was in that dealership for 20 years, 15 of those years by himself. From 1959 to 1961 he took time out of his business to serve his country in the Armed Forces. He took his basic training at Ft. Leonardwood, MO, and then was sent to Ft. Lawton Post in Seattle, WA. He was a Status Panel Operator in the Missile Master Division and when he was discharged in April of 1961 his rank was Specialist 4. From 1961 to 1965 he was in the National Guard, serving two years active duty and two years inactive. In 1977 Doug, Iva Marie and family purchased and operated the steak house in Avoca, called Doug's Dean. He sold the business after a year and went into the used car business, selling under the names of A & W Motors, OK Bargain Center and Dime Motors. He retired in 1997 after his health began to fail him. He was a member of the Avoca American Legion Post #227, the Avoca JayCees and the United Church of Avoca. He died Oct. 4, 2002, at the Avoca Nursing and Rehab Center at age 65 years, 11 months and 10 days.

He was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Debra Jean; his parents and a brother, Lawrence David Holtz. He is survived by his wife, Iva Marie Holtz; his three daughters, Tara Knudsen (Jamie) of Harlan; Jerece Cheers and her friend, Adrian Griffith of Walnut; and Candace Gardner and her friend, John Ritzler of Des Moines; eight grandchildren, Alysha, Chandra and Brayden Knudsen; Tyler and Terin Griffen; Ryder Cheers; Kane Griffith and Alexandra McPherren; his aunt, Esther Groepper (Bill) of Bozeman, MT; Mary Holtz of Oakland; Cindy Holtz of Council Bluffs and Else Johnson of Des Moines; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Oct. 8, 2002, at the Knutson Funeral Chapel with Wayne Paulsen officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery with military graveside rites conducted by the Avoca American Legion Post #227. Honorary casket bearers were Jamie Knudsen, John Ritzler, Kane Griffith, Alexandra McPherren, Robert Jensen, Clyde Peters, Brayden Knudsen, Adrian Griffith, Holger Thompson, Cliff DeSchamp, Mert Jensen and Frank Cheers. Casket bearers were Tyler Griffen, Ryder Cheers, Joe Peterson, Terin Griffen, Denny Holtz and Richard Griffen.