

Fred Holtz, 87 ✓

March 4, 1925 - Nov. 3, 2012



AVOCA — Fred Junior Holtz was born March 4, 1925 on a farm north-east of Avoca to Fred Jurgen and Emma (Ingwersen) Holtz. He is the eighth of eleven children in the family. Fred attended Avoca schools and graduated from Avoca High School in 1943. He then enlisted in the United States Army on October 30, 1945 and served during WWII until his honorable discharge on November 11, 1946.

Fred met Arlene Louise Thomsen at a dance in Corley and on March 25, 1949 the couple united in marriage at the First Lutheran Church in Avoca. Six children were born to this union: Dale, Patricia, Kenneth, Nancy, Duane and Roger. Fred started farming in 1950 in the Avoca area and did so for the next 37 years before the family moved into town in November of 1987. At which time, Fred continued to farm for another two years with his son Duane before he retired. He enjoyed reading many short novels, listening to Polka music and watching the Lawrence Welk Show, Wheel of Fortune, Price is Right, CMT Countdown and Tiger Woods golf on television. He also stayed current on the stock market and what was going on with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Before Arlene's death in April of 2002, the couple spent many years traveling together. Whether it was on bus trips or flying somewhere, they enjoyed traveling all over, collecting Christmas ornaments from every state they visited. Fred loved being with his family. Fred moved to the Avoca Lodge in November of 2010 and lived there until his most recent move to the Avoca Nursing and Rehab Center. This is where he died on Saturday, November 3, 2012 having attained the age of 87 years, 7 months and 30 days.

Fred was preceded in death by his parents, wife Arlene, his son Dale, sisters: Ella Rock, Leona Jorgensen and Frances Hodge, and brothers: Herbert, Alvin and Raymond. He is survived by his children: Patricia and her husband Raymond Ostrus of Wiota, Kenneth Holtz and his wife Deborah of Kennard, NE, Nancy and her husband Larry Ellison of Griswold, Duane Holtz and his wife Sandra of Avoca, and Roger Holtz and his wife Brenda of Elliott; daughter-in-law Debra Holtz of Walnut; fifteen grandchildren; fifteen great grandchildren; his sisters: Evelyn Nelsen of Oakland and Hazel Krueger of Walnut; his brothers: Delno "Bud" Holtz and his wife Betty and Clarence Holtz and his wife Betty Jean all of Avoca; brother-in-law Melvin Hodge and his wife Lola of Marne; nieces and nephews, many other relatives and friends.

Pastor Eric Meissner officiated the 10:30 a.m. funeral service at Trinity Lutheran Church in Avoca on Wednesday, November 7, 2012. Shirley Pattee was the musician and Jeff Krueger was the soloist. Casket bearers were Fred's grandsons: Michael Ostrus, Jason Holtz, Jeremy Holtz, Duane Ellison, Timothy Ellison, Justin Holtz, Tyler Holtz and Eric Holtz and honorary casket bearers were his granddaughters. Military Rites were held by the Fred Funston American Legion Post Number 227 in the Graceland Cemetery in Avoca.

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