

Raymond Holtz, 85

Dec. 12, 1919 - Aug. 27, 2005

AVOCA — Raymond Harry Holtz was born Dec. 12, 1919, on the Schuemann farm northeast of Avoca, son of Fred and Emma Ingwersen Holtz, and was one of 11 children in the family. He attended school in Avoca, graduating with the class of 1937. He helped with the farming at home until Aug. 26, 1942, when he entered the Army. After training at various camps, Raymond was sent overseas to serve in the South Pacific on Leyete, Philippine Islands and on Okinawa. He attained the rank of Sergeant and was honorably discharged Jan. 12, 1946. After being discharged, he worked on several farms around Avoca until September 1950, when he began working for Iowa Light and Power in Avoca as an apprentice lineman.

Raymond married Marian M. Jens July 12, 1953, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Avoca. They were the parents of five children, Linda, Kevin, Craig, Loren and Sharon. He worked as a lineman until 1974, when he had bypass surgery. Upon returning to work he took the job of gas foreman and continued in that capacity until retiring in February of 1984. He was an active member of the Trinity Lutheran Church where he also assisted his wife, Marian, as janitor for the church. He was a Scout leader for the Avoca Boy Scouts troop. In addition to being a member of the Avoca American Legion Post 227, he was also a member of the Fraternal Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union. He died Aug. 27, 2005, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Marian; daughter, Linda Kay Holtz; son, Craig Alan Holtz; grandson, Erik Ray Holtz; five brothers and sisters, Ella Rock, Leona Jorgensen, Herbert Holtz, Alvin Holtz and Frances Hodge. He is survived by his children, Kevin Holtz (Ellen) of Walnut and their children, Kerrie, Kelsi, Erran and Elija; Loren Holtz and Doug Maag of Kansas City, MO; Sharon Hoffmann (Jerry) of Panama and their children, Joshua and Alexa; two sisters, Evelyn Nelsen and Hazel Krueger (Orville), all of Walnut; three brothers, Delno "Bud" Holtz (Betty), Fred Holtz, Jr., and Clarence Holtz (Betty Jean), all of Avoca; three brothers-in-law, Harold Jens (LeAnna) of Avoca; Herbert Jens (Patty) of Hancock; and Melvin Hodge (Lola) of Mame; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Aug. 30, 2005, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Avoca, with Rev. Stephen Gronseth officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery with military graveside rites conducted by the Avoca American Legion Post #227. Casket bearers were Dale Holtz, Steve Guyer, Dave Jorgensen, Dave Kardell, Curtis Jens and Keith Holtz. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.