

Grover Howard, Jr., 73

Oct. 23, 1924 - Jan. 31, 1998

AVOCA - Grover Wayne Howard, Jr. was born Oct. 23, 1924, at Westboro, MO, son of Grover Cleveland and Katherine Elizabeth (Nance) Howard. He attended the Tarkio schools and was confirmed in 1938, at the St. John's Lutheran Church near Westboro. He was in the United States Army from 1943 to 1945, serving his country in Leyte, Saipan and Okinawa. Upon returning from the service, he attended Tarkio College at Tarkio, MO, graduating in May of 1950.

He married Frances Raylene VanMeter Feb. 17, 1950, at St. John's Lutheran Church and they became the parents of two children, Michael Wayne and Katherine Gail. He was a painter and house builder before he started teaching in 1957. He spent his first few years teaching in small Iowa community schools, including Bartlett, Henderson and Silver City before he and his family moved to Avoca 1961, where he taught junior high school social studies and shop classes for 26 years, retiring in 1987. He coached basketball and baseball and drove school bus. He was an avid hunter and would frequently take students hunting and fishing. He built his own home and always maintained three huge gardens every year, selling lots of tomatoes and vegetables. He enjoyed flying and became a pilot after the war. In later years, he worked with Boy Scouts on camp outs and canoe trips. He was a member of the Lueth-Staub Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4279 of Avoca. He died at the Methodist Hospital in Omaha, Jan. 31, 1998, at age 73 years.

Preceding him in death were his parents; brother, Keith Howard, and sister, Marie (Howard) Johnson. He is survived by his wife, Frances Raylene; son, Michael Wayne Howard, Elk Horn; daughter, Katherine Gail (Howard) Hansen, Walnut; five grandchildren, Amy Gail Hansen, Kurt Jeffrey Hansen, Laura Sue Howard, Nathan Wayne Howard and Steven Wayne Howard; two sisters, Dora Mae Nelson, Westboro, MO and Pearl Macrander, Amarillo, TX; nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services were held Feb. 4, 1998, at the St. John's Lutheran Church, Westboro, MO, with Pastor Richard Pearson officiating. Burial was in the St. John's Cemetery with full military rites conducted under the auspices of Allen Schiffern American Legion Post #199. Casket bearers were Kenny Nelson, Larry Nelson, Maurice Nelson, Paul Wessler, David Halliday and Duane Anderson. Davis Funeral Home, Tarkio, MO, in charge of arrangements.