

Portsmouth man killed in accident

Semi runs stop sign and hits truck broadside

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News Editor

PORTSMOUTH -- A 52-year-old Portsmouth man was killed here Saturday afternoon when the pickup truck he was driving was struck broadside by a semi-truck and trailer.

Robert L. Lefebber was taken to Myrtle Memorial Hospital in Harlan where he was pronounced dead early Saturday afternoon, July 24.

Shelby County Sheriff's reports said Lefebber was driving his 1984 Ford pickup westbound on Iowa Highway 44 when it approached the intersection with Iowa Highway 191 at about 1:40 p.m. that afternoon. At the same time, a 1987 International Truck Tractor with trailer driven by Stephen E. Hamilton, 42, Council Bluffs, was northbound on Highway 191. The two collided at the intersection.



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*...killed in
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Reports said the semi-truck, pulling a trailer with a tanker of burner oil, failed to stop at the intersection's stop sign and struck the Lefebber truck broadside. Sheriff's officials said faulty brakes on the semi-truck's 1967 trailer may have kept it from stopping at the stop sign.

Members of the Iowa Department of Transportation verified that the brakes on the trailer were faulty, officials said. The trailer is owned by Searle Petroleum Company of Council Bluffs. The fuel in the tanker did not spill.

Hamilton, who was not injured, was cited with Failure to Stop at Stop Sign.

The Lefebber pickup was listed as a total loss and the Hamilton tractor sustained \$4,000 damage. There was \$100 damage to a stop sign lamp at the intersection.

Lefebber of Portsmouth; three sons -- Thomas (Janet) Lefebber of Harlan, Scott Lefebber and John Lefebber, both of Portsmouth; two daughters -- Jackie (Jon) Harvey of Papillion, Neb. and Michele Lefebber of North Chicago, Ill.; four brothers -- Russell (Dorothy) Lefebber of Harlan, Eugene (JoAnne) Lefebber of Portsmouth, Ernest (Shirley) Lefebber of Harlan and Richard (Stella) Lefebber of Portsmouth; two sisters -- Margie (Ray) Gordon of Dow City and LaVonne (Paul) Jensen of Council Bluffs; and two grandchildren.

Lefebber was involved in many area organizations, serving on the Knights of Columbus Earling Council, the Cemetery board and as a REC board member for 18 years. He also was a Cass Township trustee.

He was an area farmer, and was a U.S. Army veteran.

Services...

Funeral services for Lefebber will be held today, Tuesday, July 27 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Portsmouth with burial following in the St. Mary's Cemetery.

Lefebber is survived by his mother, Emma (Leinen) Lefebber of Portsmouth; his wife, Irene (Kramer)