

Gilbert Lacey, Jr., 76

March 19, 1926 - Feb. 2, 2003

ELK HORN – Retired Army Major Gilbert E. Lacey, Jr., the son of Gilbert, Sr. and Esma Lacey, was born on a farm near Cumberland, March 19, 1926, and was baptized in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Cumberland. He attended grade school at Crossroads School, graduated from Cumberland High School in 1943, and continued education at Iowa State and South Dakota State College. He enlisted in the Army Sept. 6, 1943, and served in combat in Belgium and Germany with the 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion. After World War II, he served in the National Guard and United States Army Reserve units in Atlantic, Audubon and Council Bluffs and was retired as a Major March 19, 1986. He married Jean L. Kemp Dec. 14, 1948, at the home of her parents, Richard and Audrey Kemp. They lived in Atlantic where he was employed by the National Guard until 1955, then in Council Bluffs until 1979 and Colesburg until 1984 when he retired as secretary-treasurer of Petersburg Feed Mill near Dyersville. They made their home in Elk Horn in 1986 and traveled extensively until she was crippled by a fall in the Halloween ice storm of 1991. She died Oct. 10, 1992.

He then married Peg Borden Dec. 6, 1997. They made their home in Elk Horn until she died after an extended illness Aug. 5, 2001. Major Lacey was a life member of the National Rifle Association and attended many of their conventions. He was a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts at Elk Horn, Reserve Officers Association, and the Fighting 69th Division Association. He was affiliated with the Elk Horn Lutheran Church, and the Grove Lodge 492 AF & AM and Liberty Chapter 230 OES at Mame where he marked 50 years of membership in 2001. Dixieland and ragtime jazz were interests and he was a member of the Bix Biederbecke Memorial Society and the Catfish Jazz Society. He died Feb. 2, 2003, at Myrtle Memorial Hospital at age 76.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jean; his second wife, Peggy; his parents, Gilbert and Esma; and a brother, Roger, in infancy. Surviving are a son, Rev. John G. Lacey of Lincoln, NE; daughters, Sherry (Mrs. Barry) Gallagher, Great Falls, MT; and Shelly (Mrs. Michael) Schauwecker, Tempe, AZ; eight grandchildren, Tanis Casey and Noel Lacey; Janece and Jed Potter; Halley and Caitlin Gallagher; and Lacey and Paul Schauwecker; one great grandchild, Asher Casey; two sisters, Marilee (Clair) South of Cumberland and Ruth (David) Melena of Peoria, AZ; stepchildren, Michael Borden of Underwood; Rebecca Tiarks (Darwin) of Okinawa; seven step grandchildren; two step great grandchildren; step sisters-in-law, Betty Stipes of Clarinda; Marcia Youngren (Bob) of Kimberling City, MO; and Virginia Hunter (Bill) of Clarinda.

Funeral services were held Feb. 6, 2003, at Roland Funeral Home in Atlantic, with Rev. Mike Williams of Elk Horn Lutheran Church and Rev. John G. Lacey of St. Mark's United Methodist Church officiating. Burial was held in the Greenwood Cemetery near Cumberland with graveside military services.