

Eivind Lillehoj, 78

Aug. 11, 1928 - Feb. 10, 2007

KIMBALLTON — Eivind Bjorn, son of Peter and Johanna (Bjorn) Lillehoj, was born Aug. 11, 1928, in Kimballton. He grew up and attended grade school in Kimballton. Eivind then attended high school in Audubon and graduated there with the class of 1946. He then enlisted in the United States Navy, receiving his honorable discharge in 1948.

Eivind returned to Kimballton and Oct. 24, 1948, he married Jeanette Rasmussen at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Four children were born to this union. Eivind and Jeanette lived in Kimballton while he started college, first at Grandview College in Des Moines, then transferred to Iowa State University in Ames. The family moved to Ames in 1958 where Eivind continued his studies and earned his doctoral degree in plant physiology in 1964. The next year he did post doctoral work at the Carlsberg Laboratories in Copenhagen, Denmark. In 1965, Eivind accepted a position as microbiologist with the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Northern Regional Lab in Peoria, IL. His research involved corn fungus diseases, particularly aflatoxin as a carcinogen. The family lived in Peoria until 1979 when Eivind transferred to the Southern Regional Lab in New Orleans, LA, where he continued his research in food safety. Upon his retirement in 1989 from the USDA, Eivind and Jeanette moved back to their hometown in Kimballton where he was very active in community affairs, particularly in promoting the Democratic party in Iowa. He served on the Audubon County Central Committee of the Democratic Party. He served on the Danish Immigrant Museum Board, Audubon County Land Development and Economic Development Boards, Audubon County Landfill Commission, Integrated Agri-Energy Board of Atlantic, Cass-Audubon Border Economic Development Board, Danish Villages Economic Development Association (DVEDA) Board and was a lifetime member of Iowa State University Alumni Association. He was a devoted member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Kimballton, where he served as treasurer and the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery Board. He was also a member of AMVETS. Eivind was diagnosed with cancer in 2001 and was active until the last month before his death. He remained at home in Kimballton with the care of his wife and Cass County Hospice where he died Feb. 10, 2007, at age 78 years, five months and 30 days.

Preceding Eivind in death are his parents; mother and father-in-law, Martha and Henning Rasmussen; and brother-in-law, Jerome (Pete) Testroet. He is survived by his wife, Jeanette Lillehoj of Kimballton; four children, Catherine Lillehoj (Carl) Salmons of Des Moines; Erik Lillehoj (Hyun) of West Friendship, MD; Elizabeth Lillehoj (Joe) Esposito of Lake Bluff, IL; and Christine (Mike) Trettin of Newton; 10 grandchildren, Eva Pasqualini, Elena Goldberg, Peter Lillehoj, Sylvia Lillehoj, Tom Trettin, Bill Trettin, Dave Trettin, Ben Trettin, John Trettin and James Trettin; three great-grandchildren, Peter, Gavin and Natalia Pasqualini; brother-in-law, Clark Rasmussen (Joanne) of West Des Moines; three sisters-in-law, Barbara (Bill) Bjorn of Creston; Carol (John) Westwick of Indianapolis, IN; and Laura Testroet (Bill) Barclay of Key Colony Beach, FL; cousins, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Feb. 15, 2007, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Kimballton, with Rev. Tony D. Ede officiating. Burial was in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were Carl Salmons, Joe Esposito, Mike Trettin, Bernard Kaltoft, Paul Sorensen, and Ed Esbeck. Casket bearers were Kjer Christensen, Rick Hansen, Erik Lillehoj, Clark Rasmussen, Eva Pasqualini, and Tom Trettin. Ohde Funeral Home in Kimballton, in charge of arrangements.