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Otis J. Madsen, 64

Dec. 11, 1937 - Dec. 6, 2002

SIoux CITY – Otis JaVaine Madsen, the son of Melvin and Verda Nelson Madsen, was born Dec. 11, 1937, in Shelby County. He was baptized at his parents' home in Shelby County, and was confirmed at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church. He attended rural school, Sharon No. 6, then graduated from the Elk Horn High School with the class of 1956. He was employed by Iowa Farm Gas where he sold and delivered propane gas and applied anhydrous ammonia on farms. He entered the Army Reserves in 1954, until 1956 when he was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, MO for six months of active duty. During his tour of duty he was involved in the motor pool as a truck driver and truck dispatcher. He was honorably discharged from the reserves in 1962 with the rank of Sergeant.

March 23, 1958, he married Muriel Nielsen at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Kimballton. Four daughters were born to this union. Otis started his own business in 1958. He was owner of Madsen Surge Company in Kimballton. He sold milking equipment to dairy farmers and also financed dairy herds until 1986. From 1986 until the present he worked as a salesman for several different companies selling different products which included most recently Alpine Air Purifiers. He was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Kimballton. He had been a member of the Progressive Danes in Kimballton, was a member of the American Legion in Walnut and Avoca and was a member of AmVets, Harry Albertsen Post No. 51 in Kimballton. He died Dec. 6, 2002, at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Sioux City, at age 64 years, 11 months and 25 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his daughters, Lori (Gary) Sayles of Omaha, NE; Lynne Madsen of Scottsdale, AZ; Layna (Chad) Himmelberg; Leigh Ann (Terry) Petersen, all of Elk Horn; his grandchildren, Stephanie Sayles and Casey Sayles, both of Omaha; Nolan Himmelberg and Zachary Himmelberg; Emily Petersen, all of Elk Horn; his brother, Donald (Phyllis) Madsen of Kimballton; his special friend, Glenda Koenig of Lincoln, NE; cousins and other relatives.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor John Swenson Dec. 10, 2002, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Kimballton. Burial was in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery in Kimballton. Military graveside services were conducted by AmVets, Harry Albertsen Post No. 51 in Kimballton. Honorary casket bearers were Merlyn Knudsen, Leland Kaltoft, Darrel Hansen, Virgil Jensen, Dale Frederiksen and Leroy Larsen. Casket bearers were Gary Sayles, Chad Himmelberg, Terry Petersen, Tom Hansen, Brent Christensen and Clark Steen.