

George Mortensen, 84 ✓

March 11, 1920 - March 14, 2004

SHELBY – George Peter Mortensen, the son of Carl and Nora Jane Moore Mortensen, was born March 11, 1920, at Shelby. He attended Shelby schools and was a member of the graduating class of 1938. After graduation, he entered the United States Army Air Corps at Fort Crook, NE. He was a radio operator and mechanic and was a carbine expert. He flew 102 missions over "The Hump" and served 21 months in India. He ferried 50 gallon drums of gasoline and supplies across the Himalayas into China. He was awarded an Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster, Distinguished Unit Badge, Distinguished Flying Cross, European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and an American Campaign Medal.



July 29, 1950, George married Patricia Flautt at Wichita, KS. Two children were born to this union, Tom and Christi. After their marriage, they resided in Denver, CO, where George was the district sales manager of Libby Foods. In 1953, they moved near Cumberland, where they began farming. In 1957, George and Pat moved to Shelby where they currently reside. In 1986, George retired from farming. He was a member of the American Legion Post No. 240 of Shelby, Kiwanis, Abu Bekr Shrine T-Patrol, Masonic Lodge of Avoca, and the Shelby Stone Arch Nature Trail Committee. He was instrumental in obtaining the franchise Dairy Queen in Shelby as well as the Shelby Motel and the service station. He was also involved in the Shelby Stone Arch Nature Trail and helped to get two bridges from local areas to put across Silver Creek along the trail. He promoted Shelby and took pride in his hometown. He died March 14, 2004, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 84 years and three days.

In addition to his parents, George was preceded in death by his brothers, Ronnie and Ted. He is survived by his wife, Pat Mortensen of Shelby; his children, Tom Mortensen (Debbie) of Portland, OR and Christi (Steve) Evans of Shelby; six grandchildren, Brittany Mortensen, Cheryl Hawkins, Tricia Madsen, Amanda, Dustin and Andrew Redinbaugh; two great-grandchildren, Connor Hawkins and Gabriel Madsen; his brothers and sister, Robert Mortensen (Lois) of Harlan; Hugh Mortensen (Wilma) of Harlan; Rose (Keith) Kay of Council Bluffs; his sisters-in-law, Avis Mortensen of Walnut and Kay Balster of Clarinda; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Memorial services were held March 18, 2004, at the United Methodist Church in Shelby, with Pastor Orris Drake officiating. Military rites were conducted by the Shelby American Legion Post #240. Honorary casket bearers were Brittany Mortensen, Dustin Redinbaugh, Cheryl Hawkins, Tricia Madsen, Amanda Redinbaugh and Andrew Redinbaugh. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.