

Howard Nelsen, 73

March 11, 1924 - April 12, 1997 ✓

AVOCA - Howard Nelsen was born March 11, 1924, near Avoca, son of Fred and Hansine Jorgensen Nelsen. He was one of seven children in the family. He attended school in Avoca and graduated in 1942. He entered the Coast Guard and served from 1943 to 1946.

While in the Coast Guard he met Margaret Porsch whom he married July 27, 1946, at Avoca. They made their home in Avoca and were the parents of three sons. Howard owned and operated a semi truck from 1946 until 1961 when he became a Pottawattamie County Deputy Sheriff. He was in charge of the Avoca Office. In 1969, he became an employee of the Iowa Public Safety Commission and worked as an investigator. In 1975, the department changed its name to the Department of Transportation and he remained as an investigator until his retirement in 1986. He was a member of the American Legion and the Trinity Lutheran Church and was a longtime member of the church choir. He was also an avid golfer. He died April 12, 1997, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 73 years, one month and one day.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers, Chris, Henry, Nels and Walter, and a sister, Esther Samuels. He is survived by his wife, Margaret of Avoca; his three sons, Alan Nelsen of Austin, TX; Michael Nelsen (Mary Jane) of Raleigh, NC and Duane Nelsen (Peggy) of Lafayette, CA; eight grandchildren, Jennifer, Enoch, Lindsay, Katherine, Matthew, Molly, Ashley and Michael; one sister, Lillian (Bernard) Flaherty of Citrus Heights, CA; sisters-in-law, Fern, Edna, Evelyn and Lorene Nelsen; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held April 16, 1997, at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Avoca, with Pastor Paul Bengston and Lay Assistant Wayne Paulsen officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery. Military graveside services were conducted by the Avoca American Legion Post #227. Casket bearers were Lonn Nelsen, Wayne Nelson, Eldon (Butch) Popp, Larry Billing, Vaughn Nelsen and Steve Guye. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.