

Donald A. Raber, 81

Oct. 6, 1920 – May 3, 2002

HARLAN – Donald Allen Raber, son of Lloyd and Gladys Boutilier Raber, was born Oct. 6, 1920, on a farm near Kanawha in Hancock County. He attended country school near there and in 1938 graduated from Kanawha High School. He was active in 4-H, Future Farmers of America and Boy Scouts for several years. He worked on the family farm and also at the Kanawha Sales Pavilion. In 1940, Don purchased a light truck and hauled livestock in the area.

He married Margaret Pexton July 19, 1942, at Wesley Methodist Church in Des Moines. Sept. 17, 1942, he was inducted into the United States Army. He was stationed at Hammer Field, Fresno, CA, in the 4th Air Force, 854th Signal Company. Margaret joined him in November and they resided there until August of 1944, when Margaret and Jerry returned to Kanawha. Don was assigned to the 5th Air Force and sent to the 35th Fighter Group in the Southwest Pacific area where he served at Group Headquarters in communications and maintenance. Nov. 17, 1945, he received his Honorable Discharge at Fort Leavenworth, KS, and returned to Kanawha, where they lived for nine years. Don was a partner in Brummund and Raber Livestock and Trucking. The Rabers then farmed in Humbolt and Kossuth Counties from 1955 until 1962, when they moved to the C.E. Graves farm in Center Township, Shelby County. Don was a lifelong member of the Methodist Church, a 50 year member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, served on the Twin Lake Conservation League, and was Center Township clerk for 10 years. He died May 3, 2002, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 81 years, six months and 27 days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his daughters, Joyce Raber and Jane Lowery. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Raber of Harlan; children, Jerold Raber of Cleveland, OH; Judy (Steve) Konecne of Dakota City and Jan (Mark) Boeding of Columbus, NE; 11 grandchildren, Melissa Lowery; Ben and Maggie Konecne; Luke, Angela, Tony, Mary, Monica, Matthew and Michael Boeding; two step grandchildren, John and Tiffany Lowery; one step great granddaughter, Darby Lowery; son-in-law, David Lowery of Phoenix, AZ; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held May 7, 2002, at the United Methodist Church in Harlan, with Rev. Paul Wilcox officiating. Military rites were conducted in Bowman's Grove Cemetery in rural Harlan, by the American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 of Harlan and Shelby County Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 941. Casket bearers were Dan Bieker, Mike Christensen, Rod Rihner, Ron Ellsworth, Jim Sander and Roger Schwieso. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.