

## Cecil W. Richards, 83

May 9, 1914 - Aug. 16, 1997

**HARLAN** - Cecil Walter Richards, son of Ralph E. and Dora (Parsons) Richards, was born May 9, 1914, in Decatur, NE. He graduated from Decatur, NE High School in 1931. He then attended Wayne State College in Wayne, NE where he received his B.A. degree in 1938. C.W. received his M.A. degree in education from Greeley State College at Greeley, CO in 1942.

June 11, 1939, he married June B. Williams of Randolph, NE. Three children were blessed to this marriage. C.W. spent 41 years in the teaching profession. He has been coach, teacher, principal and superintendent in these various locations: Dakota City, NE 1938- 1941; Kinglsey 1941- 1944; Hawarden 1944 - 1950; Ireton 1950- 1953; Anthon 1953 - 1956 and Harlan 1956 - 1979. He

retired from Harlan in 1979. He was a lifetime member of the National Education Association, a member of Phi Delta Kappa of Greeley, CO, and a member of the Iowa High School Athletic Association. He joined the Masonic Lodge in Dakota City, NE in 1941, belonged to the Masonic Lodge of Hawarden and transferred to Parian Lodge No. 321, A.F. & A.M. in Harlan in 1985. In 1953, C.W. became a member of Abu Beker Shriners of Sioux City. He served for 20 years on the board of the Harlan Public Library, he was a Shelby County Board Member of Head Start, secretary of Kiwanis Club in Harlan from 1983- 1995, Shelby County representative of Head Start from 1989 - 1997, worked for Rain & Hail Insurance Company since 1951, a representative of American Association for Retired People from 1990 to 1997 and a member of the First United Methodist Church in Harlan. He died at his home Aug. 16, 1997, at age of 83 years, three months and seven days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Albe. Survivors include his wife, June of Harlan; his daughters, Carole (Dennis) Knowlton of Boulder, CO and Sharon Mehling of Phoenix, AZ; his son, Randy Richards (Becky) of Andrews, TX; five grandchildren, Lece and Ryan Knowlton, Jeff Swarm, Chase and Halli Jo Richards; his sister, Myrna June Votau (Clay) of Casson, OK, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Aug. 19, 1997, at the First United Methodist Church in Harlan, with Rev. Paul Wilcox officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Larry Hogue and Dennis Knowlton honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Ryan Knowlton, Randy Richards, Dr. Mark Markham, Charles Branstetter, Vernon Vrtiska and Harold E. Johnson. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

