

Willis Rock, 69

June 11, 1934 - Aug. 20, 2003

AVOCA – Willis Dean "Rocky" Rock was born June 11, 1934, in Avoca, son of Elmer and Lottie Leasure Rock. He attended school in Avoca and graduated with the class of 1953, of which he was class president. He also participated in many sports while in school. Rocky enlisted in the Army in 1955, entering on the buddy plan with four of his friends and they were able to serve together the entire time, stationed in Germany. After serving in the Army, Rocky returned to Avoca and owned and operated "Rocky's Tavern" for several years. He later sold the business and began working as a mail carrier for the postal service.

Rocky married Dora Hansen Sept. 29, 1961, in Walnut. They were the parents of three children, Angela, Gary and Kyle. Over the years he also sold sporting goods, insurance and operated a car wash. He was honored for being active in promoting the Avoca community and coaching several American Legion baseball teams. He was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church and the Avoca American Legion. He died at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, Aug. 20, 2003, at age 69 years, two months and nine days.

Rocky was preceded in death by his father. He is survived by his wife, Dora of Avoca; daughter, Angela (Joe) Brisbois of Persia; two sons, Gary (Nikki) of Clarinda and Kyle (Christy) of Lincoln, NE; four grandchildren, Shannon and Lance Brisbois and Paetyon and Parker Rock; his mother, Lottie Mez of Omaha, NE; two sisters, Lavonne (Joe) Gerit of Omaha and Sally (John) Millsapps of Longmont, CO; a stepbrother, Jerry Mez (Joyce) of Avoca; and a stepsister, Janet (Lee) Johnson of Seattle, WA; and other relatives.

Services were held at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Avoca, Aug. 23, 2003, with Pastor Lou Hoger and Wayne Paulsen, lay assistant, officiating. Honorary casket bearers were "The Pitch Gang", George Wise and Diz Schuerman (deceased). Casket bearers were Marvin Piittmann, Bob McLaughlin, Fran Neiman, Fred Miller, Dick Rock, Bud Krohn, Denny Langer and Jim Wharton. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery in Avoca, with military graveside rites by the American Legion Post #227. Pauley Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.