

Charley Schram, 84

Oct. 19, 1919 - Sept. 12, 2004

MANILLA — Charley, son of Charles and Myra (Peterson) Schram was born Oct. 19, 1919, in the family home in Manilla. He was baptized in the First Presbyterian Church. He attended school in Manilla and participated on the championship football and basketball teams. He graduated with the Manilla High School Class of 1937. Charley attended Iowa State College, Ames, from 1937 to 1939. He was a catcher for the freshman baseball team and blocking back on the freshman football team while at Iowa State. Due to a death in the family, he returned to Manilla in 1939 to help his father in the family businesses.

Dec. 1, 1940, Charley married Lorretta Maire Harvey in her parents' home in Manilla. Two children were born to this union. In December of 1942, Charley enlisted in the United States Army. He graduated from Officer Candidate School with the rank of First Lieutenant. During World War II he served in the 7th Army, 103rd Infantry Division, 409th Regiment, Cannon Company, 1st Platoon. He participated in the Allies' second invasion of Europe. He was seriously injured and spent time in a field hospital later returning to the USA on a hospital ship. He was awarded the Bronze Star, the Silver Star, and the Purple Heart. After his convalescence and honorable discharge in late 1945, he returned to his family in Manilla. Charley and Loretta owned and operated Schram's Market from 1945 - 1984, the business started by his grandfather in the early years of the community. As an active businessman and community volunteer, he owned other Main Street properties including a coin laundry, a pool hall and an office building, along with several apartment buildings. He was a co-founder and director of Manilla Manor Nursing Home. As a community leader, Charley served as founder and director of the Manilla youth baseball and softball program; BSA Troop 43 scout master, chairman of the 1986 Manilla Centennial Committee, member, elder and lay minister of the First Presbyterian Church (later United Church of Manilla) and chairman of the Manilla Municipal Utilities Board. He was a member of Manilla Golden Leaf Masonic Lodge, Sioux City Abu-Bekr Shrine, Post 32 of the American Legion and 103rd Infantry Division Association of WW II. In 1946, Charley began playing town team baseball. Along with his participation in area sporting events, he was scorekeeper, announcer and statistician for Manilla High School, which later became Irwin-Kirkman-Manilla High School. In 1984, Schram Park, Manilla's city park and its sports ground (land originally given to the town of Manilla by Joseph Schram) was named in Charley's honor. Charley was honored many times over the years by many organizations. The most prominent of which was being selected in 1984 as the first national winner of "The SGMA Heroes Award". The Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA), in partnership with the National Sportscasters and Sports-writers Association (NSSA) created the "SGMA HEROES" Awards program to recognize the many "unsung heroes" in sports and to provide a vehicle for continued funding of their worthwhile projects, programs and charities. Charley was presented his award and a check for \$35,000 by Pat Summerall (Fox Sports) at the SGMA "super show" in Atlanta, GA. The money was used to help fund local youth sports in Manilla. Chris Berman, of ISPN fame, chaired the 1984 SGMA-NSSA national selection committee. Berman later related -- that while reviewing the credentials forms which each of the 50 state Chapters of NSSA had submitted on behalf of their state winners, he had pulled out the Iowa form and said -- "This is the guy this award was created for!" Chris and Charley remained friends and in contact with one another over the ensuing years. Other honors included: State of Iowa Governor's Sports & Fitness Award, Iowa High School Football Coaches Association Distinguished Service Award, University of Iowa Football Coaches Service Award, Certification of Recognition State of Iowa House of Representatives, Iowa High School Director's Outstanding Contribution to High School Athletics in Iowa, Jerry Wetzel Award -- Iowa Athletic Coaches Association, Iowa Governor's Leadership Award, Iowa Governor's Volunteer Award, Iowa Coaches Association Distinguished Service Award, Iowa High School Athletic Association News Media Award, National Pi Kappa Phi 50 Year Service Award, Iowa High School Athletic Association Public Address Announcing Service Award, and the Missouri River Energy Services Community Leader Award. Charley's health began to fail a number of years ago, however with the loving care of his wife was able to remain at home until Aug. 30, 2004 when he became a resident of the Manilla Manor Nursing Home. He died there Sept. 12, 2004, at age 84 years, 10 months and 24 days.

Preceding Charley in death are his parents and sister, Jeanne Fortner. He is survived by his wife and partner, Lorretta Schram of Manilla; son, Edward Charles Schram (Marlys) of Santa Barbara, CA; daughter, Linda Lorraine Schram (Kris McIntosh) of Fort Worth, TX; granddaughters, Kristin Lee Benoit (Jacques) and Kourtney Lee Searls (Brendan), all of Santa Barbara, CA; grandson, Edward Charles Schram II of Santa Barbara, CA; great-grandsons, Sean Searls and Ben Searls; and great-granddaughter, Sophie Benoit, all of Santa Barbara, CA; niece, Tanis Fortner Mueller (Mike) of Postville; great-niece, Jeanne Mueller of Iowa City; great-nephew, Mark Mueller of Decorah; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Sept. 16, 2004, at the IKM High School Gymnasium in Manilla, with Rev. John Kult, United Church of Manilla and Rev. Father Robert Gralapp of Sacred Heart Church officiating. Burial was in the Nishnabotna Cemetery, Manilla, with graveside military honors performed by the American Legion Post 32. Casket bearers were the other eight members of Charley's team, Glen Macumber, John Vennink, Pat Weustewald, Bill Miller, Wayne Saunders, Roger (Blackberry) Vollstedt, Leonard Kaufman and Roger Georgius. Ohde Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.