

Joseph H. Spearing, M.D., 84

May 4, 1920 - Jan. 25, 2005

HARLAN — Joseph Spearing, the son of Joseph Watkins and Florence Wilson Spearing, was born May 4, 1920, at Cimarron, KS. He graduated from Mexico Military Academy in Mexico, MO and the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 1944. He served his internship at Baltimore General Hospital in Baltimore, MD. He served in the United States Army Medical Corps during World War II and was honorably discharged July 28, 1947.

Aug. 20, 1943, Joseph married Carolyn V. Erdman in Kansas City, MO. Joseph did a rotating residency at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs. In January of 1948, he moved with his family to Harlan where he started his private medical practice. He retired in 1989 and continued to make his home in Harlan. Joseph was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. He was a member of the Parian Masonic Lodge No. 321, A.F. & A.M., Olivet Chapter No. 107, Royal Arch Masons, Adelpia Council No. 4, Royal and Select Masons, Mt. Zion Commandary No. 49, Knights Templar, Abu-Becker Temple Shrine of Sioux City, and the Harlan Shrine "T" Patrol. Among his many civic and professional involvements were his memberships in the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis International, and numerous medical associations. Doc was an avid supporter of HCHS sports and band activities. Dr. Joseph Spearing Park on Ridgeway Drive is named after him. He died Jan. 25, 2005, at Myrtle Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Spearing was preceded in death by his parents; by a sister, Margie Downey; and a brother, Edwin Spearing. Survivors include his wife, Carolyn V. Spearing of Harlan; his daughter, Anne C. (John T.) Adam of Alliance, NE; a son, John R. (Luann) Spearing of Cartersville, GA; grandchildren, Beth and Tom Rankin of Kalamazoo, MI; Alex and Natalie Adam of Alliance, NE; Joshua Spearing of Cartersville, GA; Jaron and Eleanor Bergin of Houston, TX; sister-in-law, Dee Spearing of Tulsa, OK; brother-in-law, Al Downey of Key Biscayne, FL; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Jan. 29, 2005, at Pauley Jones Funeral Home with Father Glenn Rankin of St. Paul's Episcopal Church officiating. A Communion service was held Jan. 29, 2005, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Harlan. Inurnment was held in the Harlan Cemetery.

