

Richard Swanson, 73

March 11, 1930 - Feb. 17, 2004

MANILLA — Richard Arnold, son of Herbert and Irene (Stolz) Swanson, was born March 11, 1930, in Audubon County. When he was 10 years old, he moved with his family to a farm east of Manilla where he attended rural school near his home. After completing his schooling, he worked for his father and neighboring farmer for a number of years.

Richard married Shirley Rose Schroeder Jan. 19, 1951, in Manilla. Ten children were born to this union. After their marriage, Richard ran a garage in Aspinwall for a short time before moving to Manilla where he worked at a service station, the produce company and, for 16 years, Rasmussen Lumber Company. In 1974, he started working for the City of Manilla natural gas department where he worked until retirement. He was a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Manilla since 1940 and a very active member of the Holy Name Society. For over 30 years he was sexton of Mt. Olivet Cemetery near Manilla. He was a founding member of the Manilla Community Club and had served as its president. He also served as a justice of the peace, a law enforcement officer and was elected and served as mayor of Manilla. He also received an award from the Governor of the State of Iowa for his community service. Richard was diagnosed with cancer in late January 2004. He underwent surgery Feb. 12, 2004, and shortly thereafter complications set in. He died at Creighton Medical Center/St. Joseph Hospital, Omaha, NE, Feb. 17, 2004, at age 73 years, 11 months and six days.

Preceding him in death are his parents; daughter, Wanda Andreason; daughter-in-law, Julie Swanson; brother, Eugene Swanson; and parents-in-law, William and Rosie Schroeder. Richard is survived by his wife, Shirley Swanson of Manilla; nine children, Dennis Swanson (Virginia) of Glenwood; Becky (Roger) Jepsen of Charter Oak; Steven Swanson (Carol) of Manilla; Dale Swanson (Kathy) of Manning; Daniel Swanson of Manilla; Rodney Swanson of Murphy, TX; Duane Swanson of Council Bluffs; Gerald Swanson (Brenda) of Manilla and Angela Sondag of Omaha, NE; 23 grandchildren, Brandon, Aubrey, Jason, Hollie, Jeremy, Shawn, Heather, Cody, Heath, Jeanne, Jessica, Ben, Jayne, Briana, Megan, Jessica, Skylair, Randy, Coleen, Jamie, Stephanie, Ashley and Robyn; eight great-grandchildren, Aleesha, Jesse, Baylee, Alexis, Alanna, Emily, Mitchell and Lauren; son-in-law, Ron Andreason of West Branch; three brothers, Darrell Swanson (Betty) of Denison; Jerry Swanson (Carol) of Denison; and Gail Swanson of Nevada; four sisters, Darlene (Vernon) Reis of Denison; Judy (Richard) Brodersen of Denison; Patricia (Tom) Getty of Alpharetta, GA; and Corrine (Rick) Bogart of Omaha, NE; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Feb. 19, 2004, at the Sacred Heart Church with Rev. Robert Gralapp, Rev. Ben Kenkel and Rev. Lloyd White celebrating. Burial was in the Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were Don Pederson, Arnie Gallagher, Virgil Boyens, Joe Schiltz, Donald Sondag, Ron Andreason, Alvin Bandow, John Bruck, Junior Carstens and Merv Arnold. Casket bearers were his grandsons, Randy Andreason, Jeremy Jepsen, Cody Swanson, Jamie Andreason, Shawn Swanson, Brandon Swanson and Jason Jepsen. Ohde Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.