

Harry Wendt, 94

March 15, 1909 - June 7, 2003

AVOCA – Harry Charles Wendt was born March 15, 1909, in Minden, the only child of John and Lena Boeck Wendt. He attended the Avoca schools and graduated with the class of 1929. While still in high school and after graduation, he worked at the Standard Oil Station (where the Post Office is now located).

Harry married Frances Nelson April 25, 1934, in Harlan. They were the parents of three children, Ronald, Janice and Barbara. After their marriage, they lived in Avoca and he worked for the WPA. He entered the Army during WW II in April of 1944. He was stationed in the Philippines until his discharge in July of 1945. He worked for Glen Beebe as a painter and in the late 40's he established his own painting business. Harry hired many assistants to help, but his partnership with Lawrence "Babe" Kohlscheen was with whom he worked the longest. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, a 50-year member of the American Legion and V.F.W. and was currently the oldest member of the local WW II Last Man's Club. He died at Myrtue Memorial Hospital June 7, 2003, at age 94 years, two months and 23 days.

Harry was preceded in death by his parents and wife, Frances. He is survived by his children, Ronald Wendt (Ann) of Omaha, NE; Janice (James) Tooley of Walnut; and Barbara (Marvin) Piittmann; eight grandchildren; seven great grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held June 11, 2003, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Avoca, with Pastor Lou Hoger and Lay Assistant Wayne Paulsen officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery with military graveside rites conducted by the Avoca American Legion Post #227. Honorary casket bearers were Lawrence Kohlscheen, Douglas Wiegand, Lorraine Osbahr, Peter Tobin, Byron How and Dorothy Eggerss. Casket bearers were Douglas Wendt, Darren Tooley, Jerry Hoffman, Jordan Hoffman, Troy Piittmann, Justen Tooley and Russell Dickerson. Pauley Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.