

Maurice Wilson, 88

Oct. 13, 1914 - Oct. 10, 2003

HARLAN – Maurice Hamilton Wilson, son of Hugh and Dora (Farmhals) Wilson, was born Oct. 13, 1914, in Cass County. He graduated from Lewis High School in 1933 as their class president. After working various jobs around Cass County, Maury entered Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls. His studies were interrupted by World War II, when he served his country in the South Pacific paving the way for the return of General MacArthur to the Philippines. He attained the rank of technical sergeant in the signal corps and was awarded the bronze star for his bravery. After the war, Maury completed his Bachelor's degree and came to Avoca to teach in 1947. He worked at the school as a teacher and as a coach in track, football, baseball as well as girls and boys basketball and golf. After earning a Master's degree in administration from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, he served the school system as their principal. Maury's love for the students and the classroom led him back to teaching after a few years as principal. He retired in 1979.

Aug. 6, 1949, Maury married Margaret Jean Parquet at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Omaha, NE. Four children were born to this union. They spent most of their life in Avoca where they were active in the community. It was difficult to leave Avoca when circumstances sent them to the Elm Crest Retirement Community in April of 2000. Maury died Oct. 10, 2003, just three days before his 89th birthday at Elm Crest at age 88 years, 11 months and 28 days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a grandson, Joe Hull; a sister, Beth; and two brothers, Donald and Roy. He is survived by his wife, Jean of Harlan; his children, Patti (Mike) Annis of Athens, GA; Kathy (Larry) Hull of Harlan; Tom Wilson (Jan) of Nevada, IA; Steve Wilson (Debbie) of Manchester, MO; six grandchildren, Paul, Mark, Ian, Kelsey, Sarah and Heather; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Oct. 13, 2003, at St. Michael's Catholic Church with Rev. Robert Hoefler officiating. Casket bearers were Tom Wilson, Steve Wilson, Paul Annis, Mark Hull, Ian Wilson, Mike Annis and Larry Hull. Burial was held in the Harlan Cemetery with military rites by the Fred Funston American Legion Post No. 227 of Avoca. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.