

BC Nov. 27, 2002

Howard A. Olson, 78

Howard A. Olson, 78, of Hartwick, died Friday, Nov. 22, 2002, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center, Grinnell.

Funeral services for Howard Olson were held at 11 a.m., Monday, Nov. 25, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Brooklyn. Rev. Richard Okumu and Rev. David Ambrosy officiated. The organist was Marilyn Kriegel and the soloist was Mary Jo Seaton. Casket bearers were grandsons, Michael Olson, Matthew Olson, Craig Olson, Stephen Olson, Ryan McWilliams, Nicholas McWilliams, Marc Kelly, Garrett Olson, Trevor Olson and Kyle McWilliams. Interment was in Calvary Cemetery, Brooklyn, with military honors conducted by members of the Victor Legion Post. A prayer service was held at 7 p.m., Sunday, at the Nevenhoven Funeral Home, Brooklyn. A memorial fund has been established.

Howard Allen Olson, son of Halvor and Alma (Toresdahl) Olson was born Sept. 10, 1924, near Northwood, Iowa. He graduated from Morrison High School, Morrison, Ill., in 1943. From 1943 to 1946 he served as a U.S. Marine Corp Sergeant spending 20 months in the Pacific Theatre. He obtained a Business Administration degree from Grinnell College in 1950. On Aug. 20, 1949,

he married Anna V. Vavroch at Tama. Olson's professional career included four years of teaching at schools in Le Grand and Farmington, and 33 years at the Hartwick State Bank serving in roles ranging from cashier to president prior to his retirement in 1987.

He was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus and American Legion. He served on the Poweshiek County Conservation Board, Hartwick Town Council, and St. Patrick's Church Foundation. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, dancing and playing cards. In addition to his wife, Howard is survived by eight children; David Olson (Julie) of Decorah, Janice Kelly (Dennis) of Morton, Ill., Tom Olson (Marilyn) of Cedar Rapids, Doug Olson of Des Moines, Jim Olson (Mary) of Burlington, LeRoy Olson (LuAnn) of Tama, Margaret McWilliams (Curt) of Victor and Randy Olson (Paula) of West Des Moines; two sisters, Genevieve Gielow of Camanche, and Avis Schember of Farmville, Va.; and 19 grandchildren.

His parents, an infant brother and an infant grandson preceded him in death.

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The son of Halvor and Alma Toresdahl Olson, Howard Olson was born Sept. 10, 1924, near Northwood, Iowa. He graduated from Morrison High School in Morrison Ill., in 1943.

From 1943 to 1946, he served as a sergeant in the U.S. Marines, spending 20 months in the Pacific Theater.

On his return, he entered Grinnell College to study business administration. On Aug. 20, 1949, he married Anna V. Vavroch at Tama. He graduated with a degree in 1950.

His professional career included four years of teaching at schools in LeGrand and Farmington and 33 years at the Hartwick State Bank, during which time he progressed from cashier to president. He retired from that post in 1987.

He was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus and the American Legion. He also served on the Poweshiek County Conservation Board, the Hartwick town council and the board of the St. Patrick's Church Foundation.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, dancing, playing cards and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife and eight children — David Olson of Decorah, Janice Kelly of Morton, Ill., Tom Olson of Cedar Rapids, Doug Olson of Des Moines, Jim Olson of Burlington, LeRoy Olson of Tama, Margaret McWilliams of Victor and Randy Olson of West Des Moines — as well as two sisters, Genevieve Gielow of Camanche and Avis Schember of Farmville, Va.; and 19 grandchildren.

His parents, an infant brother and an infant grandson preceded him in death.

A memorial fund has been established in the name of the deceased.

H-R 11-25-2002