Garrit Vander Weerd

Garrit Vander Weerd, 86, of Grinnell, Iowa, formerly of Lynnhurst, Iowa, passed away Sept. 27, 2009, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell.

The son of Gerrit and Josie (Runia) Vander Weerd Sr., he was born on Oct. 23, 1922, in Jasper County, northwest of Lynnhurst. Garrit graduated from Taylor Country School, northeast of Sully on June 16, 1936. He worked for various farmers as a hired man until he was drafted into the U.S. Army on Jan. 5, 1943.

A proud veteran of World War II, he served in signal air warning (radar) in Atlantic City, NJ; Drewfield, FL; Camp Stoneman, CA; Australia, New Guinea, Philippines, Okinawa, and Japan until honorably discharged on Dec. 15, 1945. On March 14, 1949, he was united in marriage to Isabelle Mathilda Terlouw at the Sully Christian Reformed Church parsonage. They lived northwest of Lynnhurst where he was born on the farm bought by his father in 1919. They moved into Lynnhurst in 1982 and lived there until they moved to St. Francis Manor in 2003. He was a farmer, a part-time carpenter, and retired Lynnhurst rural mail carrier, serving 1967 to 1990. He remained a faithful longtime member of Sully Christian Reformed Church where he had served as a Deacon. Garrit's faith was evident and he professed to know Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

Survivors are his five children: Twyla Vander Weerd of Coon Rapids, MN, Leon (Margaret) Vander Weerd of Sully, Lois (Bruce) Rypkema of Danbury, WI, James (Jane) Vander Weerd of Sully, and Kelvin (Diane) Vander Weerd of Sully; 11 grandchildren: Faye (Eric) Brand of Lynnhurst; Gwyn (Jace) Ferguson of Norwalk; Kyra (Peter) Smuth of Killduff; Kristy (Derek) Johnson of Mora, MN; Todd (Lindsay) Rypkema of Rochester, MN; Andrew Rypkema of Tulsa, OK; Kody (Karin) Vander Weerd of Pella; Tanner, Betsy, Darci, and Grace Vander Weerd, all of Sully; four great-grandsons, Nathan Johnson, Grant and Trent Johnson of Mora, MN, and Carter Brand of Lynnhurst; two sisters-in law, Elizabeth and Cornelia Vander Weerd of Pella; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Isabelle on June 6, 2005; one sister, Anna Hardeman in 1988; and three brothers, Brandt in 1994, and twins, Henry and John in 2001. Arrangements by Van Dyk-Duven Funeral Home in Pella.

For those desiring, memorials may be designated for the Lynnhurst Historical Society or Christian Worship Hour of Aberdeen, SD.

Garrit Vander Weerd

Garrit Vander Weerd, 86, of Grinnell, died Sunday evening, Sept. 27, 2009, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell.

Funeral services were held Sept. 30 at the Sully Christian Reformed Church in Sully, with interment in the Sully Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Lynnhurst Historical Society or Christian Worship Hour of Aberdeen, SD.

Garrit is survived by his five children, Twyla Vander Weerd of Coon Rapids, Minn.; Lois Rypkema of Danbury, Wisc.; and Leon Vander Weerd, James Vander Weerd, and Kelvin Vander Weerd, all of Sully.