Henry Eugene ‘Gene’ Manatt

Henry Eugene “Gene” Manatt, 75, of Newton, died Friday, Sept. 16, 2011, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell.

Memorial services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Wallace Family Funeral Home in Newton. The family will greet friends from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home before the service. A private family burial will be held at Brooklyn Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to Grinnell Regional Hospice or the A.L.S. Association-Iowa Chapter may be left at the funeral home.

He was born Dec. 27, 1935, in Poweshiek County, the son of Henry Elnor and Lucille Irene Hughes Manatt. He graduated from Brooklyn High School with the Class of 1953 and farmed for 19 years, then worked as a pilot and in construction and trucking for Manatt’s for 31 years before retiring in 2003. He was a pilot for 45 years and had ratings in private, single- and twin-engine, instrument and instructor.

He was united in marriage with Nancy Breckenridge Daehler on Feb. 27, 1998, in Las Vegas, Nev. He had lived in Brooklyn for 56 years prior to moving to Newton for the last 16 years. He had also wintered in Alamo, Texas, for ten years.

He was a member of the Brooklyn Presbyterian Church and the Farm Bureau, and a member of the Aircraft Owner and Pilot’s Association since 1958. He enjoyed flying, attending races in Knoxville and at the Iowa Speedway, golfing, shooting, shuffleboard and reading.

He is survived by his wife Nancy of Newton; two daughters, Joan Randall of Olathe, Kan., and Beth Gonzalez of Dublin, Ohio; a sister, Joyce Doonan of Grinnell; four grandchildren; a stepdaughter, Diane Hagarty of Cedar Rapids, and a step-son, David Daehler of Newton; four step-grandchildren; two step-great-grandchildren; and many other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

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G H R 9-19-2011
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He was born Dec. 27, 1935, in Poweshiek County, the son of Henry and Lucille Manatt. He was graduated from Brooklyn High in 1953, and farmed for 19 years. He then worked for Manatts Inc. until he retired in 2003.

Gene is survived by his wife, Nancy; daughters Joan Randall of Olathe, Kan., and Beth Gonzales of Dublin, Ohio; a sister, Joyce Doonan of Grinnell; and grandchildren.

Henry Eugene "Gene" Manatt was born Dec. 27, 1935, in Poweshiek County to Henry Elnor and Lucille Irene (Hughes) Manatt. He was a 1953 graduate of Brooklyn High School. He also was a pilot for 45 years, with ratings in private, single, and twin engine, instrument and instructor.

He was united in marriage to Nancy Brockenridge Daehler on Feb. 27, 1966, in Las Vegas, Nev. For 19 years, Gene farmed and then he worked as a pilot and in construction and trucking for Manatt's Inc. for 31 years, retiring in 2005. He was a member of the Brooklyn Presbyterian Church, Farm Bureau, and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association since 1958. He enjoyed flying, attending races at Knoxville and Iowa Speedway, golfing, reading, playing shuffleboard, and going to the shooting range.

Gene is survived by his wife, Nancy Manatt, of Newton; two daughters, Joan Randall of Olathe, Kan., and Beth (Alex) Gonzales of Dublin, Ohio; four grandchildren, Emily Randall of Atchison, Kan., and Daniel, Lucy and Emma Gonzales of Grinnell; one step-daughter, Diane (Bob) Hagerty of Cedar Rapids; one step-son, David (Lori) Daehler of Newton; four step-grandchildren, Melissa (Jason) Roling and Brandon Vermillion of Cedar Rapids, and Kaitlyn and Troy Daehler of Newton; two step-great-grandchildren, Austin Vermillion and Olivia Roling; one sister, Joyce (Jerry) Doonan of Grinnell; two nieces, Jill (Paul) Wagner of Grinnell and Jan (Eric) Bailey of St. Cloud, Minn.; two great-nephews, Jason (Rachel) and Nicholas Wagner of Grinnell; and two great-nieces, Kaitlyn and Rachel Bailey of St. Cloud, Minn.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and maternal and paternal grandparents.