Larry Grant Dayton, age 80, of Brooklyn, died Saturday, March 31, 2012, at Brooklyn Community Estate. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, April 5, at Grace United Methodist Church, Brooklyn, with the Rev. Dorothy Banzhaf officiating. Burial will be in the Brooklyn Memorial Cemetery with military honors. Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, April 4, at Kloster Funeral Home, Brooklyn. A memorial fund has been established.

Larry is survived by his wife, Anna Grace; his children, Stephen (LaVerne) Dayton of Arroyo Grande, Calif., Robin (Ronald) Miller of Mason City, Gaylon (Janet) Dayton of Olive, and Carol (Patrick) Croke of Forest Grove, Ore.; six grandchildren, USMC GYSGT Jeremy McGrath (Jaylene) of Okinawa, Japan, Rachel Miller of Faribault, Minn., Kimberly Miller of Mason City, Matthew Dayton and William Dayton of Clive, and Garrick Croke of Forest Grove, Ore.; and a great-grandson, Benjamin McGrath. Also surviving are a sister, Norma Allen of Brooklyn; a brother-in-law, Robert Little of Albia; nieces, Rebecca Hammer (Richard), and Brenda Jermier (David); a nephew, Keith Little (Kathryn); and several great and great-great nieces and nephews and numerous cousins; two step-grandchildren, Evelyn Collins and Sherman Weston; and their children, Taylor, Ava, and Gage; and Anna Grace's sister-in-law, Rachel Mitten of St. Charles, Mo., and her extended family.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Miriam Little; two great-grandsons, Josiah and Seth McGrath; a great-nephew, Trevor Hammer; and two brothers-in-law, Earl Allen and Aura Mitten.

Larry Grant Dayton was born May 18, 1931 in Grinnell, the son of Freeman Egbert Dayton and Grace Ostrom Dayton. He received his education in the Poweshiek County schools and graduated from Montezuma High School in 1949. He proudly served in the U.S. Army from 1952-1954 in the Signal Corps and attained the rank of corporal. He graduated from Iowa State University in 1958 with a B.S. Degree in Agricultural Education. Larry was employed as a Vocational Agriculture teacher at Moravia Community Schools for 11 years, and at Brooklyn-Guernsey-Malcom Community Schools for 16 years. Larry worked for Ruritan, Montezuma Manufacturing, and L&G Manufacturing until his retirement.

Larry was united in marriage to Anna Grace Mitten on June 21, 1959 at Grace Methodist Church in Moravia. They were blessed with four children, Stephen Glen, Robin Gwen, Gaylon Gene, and Carol Jeanine. Larry loved his family very much. He enjoyed working in the yard and gardens. He also enjoyed flying and woodworking. Larry's love of farming ran deep and he was always interested in crops and farming operations that he saw while traveling.

Larry was a member of Grace United Methodist Church in Brooklyn, Iowa State Education Association, National Education Association, Iowa Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association, and Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. He volunteered with Meals on Wheels and Community of Flags Store in Brooklyn.

Online condolences may be extended to the family at www.klosterfuneralhome.com.

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