William Ray "Bill" Darter, 75, of Toledo died Monday, July 23, 2012, at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines. Funeral services will be held Saturday, July 28, at 10:30 a.m. at Kruse-Phillips Funeral Home in Tama. Interment will follow at Sheridan Cemetery in rural Malcom. Visitation will be held Friday, July 27 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Kruse-Phillips Funeral Home in Tama.

A memorial fund has been established.

He was born on Jan. 21, 1937, in Paxton, Ill., the son of Earl Gardner and Katie Lee (Florence Whitcomb) "Kay" Darter.

He graduated from Marshalltown High School in 1956 and attended Marshalltown Community College for one year. Bill ran track and participated in the Drake Relays. He was also involved in theater.


He was a professional magician, working at many area grocery stores, including Econo's Super Valu. Bill was employed with Tama Pack for 25 years, only missing two days in that time. After his retirement, he worked at Meskwaki Bingo Casino Hotel.

--Bill enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, fishing and camping, bowling, cooking, playing horseshoes and classic movies.

He is survived by his wife, Jo of Toledo; seven children, Jeffrey Darter of Columbia, Mo., Joseph Darter of Marshalltown, Rae Ann Jacobs of Lewisville, Texas, Jonathan "John" Darter of St. Joseph, Mo., Peggy Holm of Marshalltown, Jon Darter of Minneapolis, Minn., and Jason Darter of Marshalltown; 14 grandchildren; one sister, Doris Vonceil "Von" Sherman of Marshalltown; and other relations.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three sisters, Carol Eggers, Betty Klaas, and Nancy Anstrom.