

Hillis Klenk, 83

Hillis Klenk, 83, Chelsea, passed away Thursday, July 19, 2012, at Sunny Hill, where he has resided for the past two years. Services were held on Monday, July 23, at Hrabak Funeral Home in Belle Plaine, with the Rev. Charles Johnson officiating. Burial was at Rector Cemetery, Chelsea.



Hillis was born on Jan. 1, 1929, on the family home near Chelsea. He attended country school and Chelsea High School, where he graduated in 1947. He took up farming with his father after high school and spent his life farming on the family's century farm. He loved to spend time in his shop working on tools and gadgets for the farm. He enjoyed going to farm shows and sales. He was a long time trustee of the Rector Cemetery. In his later years, he became an avid gardener and loved to share his produce with family and friends. He volunteered at Sunny Hill entertaining residents with games and conversation.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hillis and Agnes (Plessek) Klenk; a brother, Lilburn Klenk; and a brother-in-law, Jim Ryan.

Survivors include his sister, Lillian Ryan, Toledo; and sister-in-law, Annabelle Klenk, Brooklyn; one nephew, Don (Michelle) Ryan, Chelsea; four nieces, Jean Nelson, Cedar Falls, Julie Ryan, West Des Moines, Susan (Scott) Morgan, Eagle Lake, Minn., and Marcia (Greg) Owens, Glenview, Ill. He also has four great nephews, six great nieces and lots of cousins.

The family wishes to thank the staff of Sunny Hill and Grinnell Regional Hospice for the loving care they gave to Hillis during his recent illness.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.hrabakfuneralhome.com under "obituaries."

Casket bearers were Don Ryan, Jeff Hart, Julie Ryan, Loren Klenk, Michael Nelson and Susan Klenk-Morgan.

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