

James H. Manatt, 86

James H. Manatt, 86, of Malcom, died Aug. 11, 2008, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 15, at the Malcom Presbyterian Church with the Rev. John Reynolds Jr. officiating. Organist was Alice Waechter. Richard Thorson was the vocalist. Pallbearers were Robert, Traci, and Crystal Manatt, Patrick and Steven Coleman, and Veronica Lemke. Burial was in Ivy Hill Cemetery in Malcom with military rites led by the Malcom American Legion.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Malcom Presbyterian Church.

The son of Fred and Esther L. Wichman Manatt, Jim was born Jan. 18, 1922, in Grinnell. He lived in Clark's Grove, Minn., for several years, and later moved to Deep River where he attended school. He was a veteran of the United States Navy during World War II and served on a mine sweeper in the Pacific Theater.

On Feb. 12, 1949, he was married to Laurma Jean Baltisberger, at the Malcom Presbyterian Church. The couple farmed for many years in the Malcom area. In 1970, he began his passion of raising Belgium horses and later formed the company James H. Manatt & Sons, which specialized in that business. He also raised quail, pheasants, and chickens.

Jim was a member of the Malcom Presbyterian Church, the American Legion, Chat-a-Lot Card Club, Ruritans, and the Draft Horse & Mule Association. He enjoyed having his family around as much as possible, attending auctions, and cooking. He liked home-made ice cream, barbequed-chicken, and making pancakes for family and friends.

Survivors include his wife, Laurma of Malcom; three children, Connie K. Coleman, Larry J. (Elizabeth) Manatt, and Ronald E. (Patricia) Manatt, all of Malcom; six grandchildren, Patrick (Amber) Coleman, Traci Manatt, Robert (Amanda) Manatt, Steven Coleman, Crystal Manatt, and Veronica (Nick) Lemke; five great-grandchildren, Alexa and Dominic Coleman, Dezerea and Gabriel Manatt, and Chase Lemke; one brother, Melvin Porter of Newton, Kan.; and two sisters, Claudine Toht of Dayton, Ohio, and Mildred Church of North Carolina.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his step-father, Harry Porter; three sons; Merle, Richard, and Edwin; and one sister, Velma Watson.

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A funeral service will take place Friday, Aug. 15, at 10:30 a.m. at the Malcom Presbyterian Church with the Rev. John Reynolds Jr. officiating. Organist will be Alice Waechter. Pallbearers will be Robert, Traci and Crystal Manatt, Patrick and Steven Coleman and Veronica Lemke. Burial will be in Ivy Hill Cemetery at Malcom with military rites by the Malcom American Legion. Visitation will be from 12 noon to 8 p.m. Thursday at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with family members present from 6 to 8 p.m. Memorials may be made to Malcom Presbyterian Church.

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chicken and making pancakes for family and friends.

He is survived by his wife Laurma of Malcom; his daughter and sons, Connie K. Coleman, Larry J. Manatt and Ronald E. Manatt, all of Malcom; six grandchildren and five great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; his stepfather, Harry Porter; three sons, Merle, Richard and Edwin and one sister Velma Watson.

