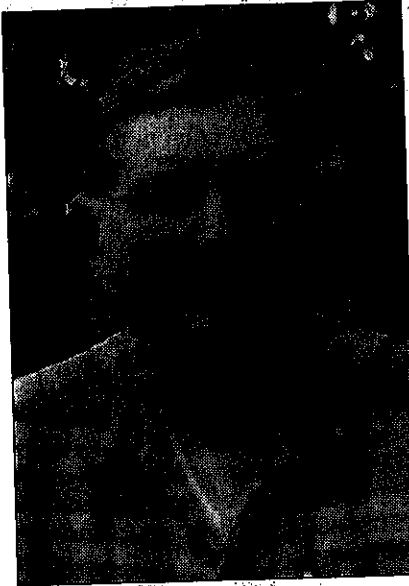


## Laurence W. Gertsma



Laurence W. Gertsma, 81, of Brecksville, Ohio, and formerly of this area, died Jan. 18, 2013.

A service was held Jan. 26 in Ohio. A local service will be held Saturday, March 16, at 1:30 p.m. in the Lynnville Friends Church. Memorial donations may be made in his name to the Lynnville Historical Society.

Laurence Willard Gertsma, son of Cecil and Ruth Gertsma, was born Nov. 3, 1931, in Oskaloosa. He grew

up on the family farm and graduated from Lynnville High School with the Class of 1950. He graduated from the University of Iowa in 1954 with a degree in mechanical engineering, and later earned a masters degree in aeronautical engineering from Case Institute in Cleveland, Ohio.

He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Air Force and was assigned to the Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory in Cleveland where he was granted a patent for an arm used on the Viking Mars Landers and one for a Snap-8 Boiler. He refereed high school wrestling for ten years, and football for 39 years. He built houses and housing developments, but remained a farmer at heart.

He married Mildred Sprague in June of 1954. They lived in Ohio, and were parents of five children. Laurence married Jean Marie Minor in 1977.

He is survived by his wife Jean Marie; children Renee Tribble, Earl Gertsma and Nancy Vesel, all of Ohio, Paul Gertsma of Missouri, and stepson Randy Minor of Ohio; seven grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; three great grandchildren; and his brothers John Andrew Gertsma and David Gertsma, both of Lynnville.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his son Mark Allen; and one granddaughter.

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