

Rudolph "Rudy" Brezina, Jr.



Rudolph "Rudy" Brezina, Jr., 84, of rural Tama passed away Monday, March 24, 2014, at Premier Estates of Toledo. A mass of Christian burial was held Friday, March 28, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church in Tama with Father Michael Mescher as celebrant. Interment followed at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Tama. Visitation was held on Thursday, March 27, 2014, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Kruse-Phillips Funeral Home where there was a vigil service at 7 p.m. followed by a rosary.

Rudolph was born on March 25, 1929, at home in rural Irving, Iowa, the son of Rudolph and Tillie (Chesick) Brezina, Sr. Rudy was proud to serve his country in the U.S. Army as a medic and cook from 1951-1953 during the Korean War.

On April 22, 1954, he was united in marriage to Helen Boriskey at the St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Tama. Rudy farmed his entire life in Highland Township southwest of Tama, raising cattle and hogs, and enjoyed planting and harvesting corn, soybeans, hay, and oats in his fields. He was a member of the St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Tama where he was an usher, and a member of the American Legion, and the Audubon Society.

Rudy wrote two books, "My Time In Korea" and "Childhood Memories." He was an avid woodworker, building birdhouses and refinishing furniture. Rudy built replica grain wagons out of barn wood and donated them to charities for fundraisers.

Rudy loved gardening and selling produce at farmers' markets. He enjoyed fishing, camping, and baking - especially Christmas cookies. Rudy was an outdoorsman and loved anything to do with nature. He was a great family man and loved teaching his children and grandchildren about nature.

Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Helen, of Tama and five children: Barbara Brezina of Omaha, Nebraska; Beverly (Doug) Hemminger of Omaha, Nebraska; Dennis (Deb) Brezina of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Tom Brezina of Atlanta, Georgia; and Sandra (Jeff) Jordahl of Omaha, Nebraska. Also surviving are eight grandchildren: Jason (Emily) Hemminger of Omaha, Nebraska; Andy Hemminger of Omaha, Nebraska; Kelli, Nick, and Alex Brezina of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Alyssa, Sydney, and Jacob Jordahl of Omaha, Nebraska; one great grandson, Joshua Hemminger, of Omaha, Nebraska; one sister, Irene Dolezal, of Tama; one brother, Lawrence (Doris) Brezina, of Tama; and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents; four brothers, Charles, Milvoy, Jim, and Lester Brezina; and two sisters, Blanche Cibula and Helen Kasal.

Memorials may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association or Audubon Society in Grinnell. 6H-R 3-31-2014