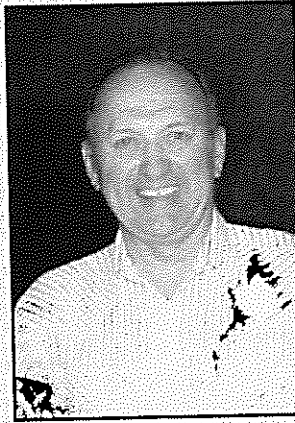


RICHARD LEON MITCHELL

Leon Mitchell, 81 of New Sharon, passed away peacefully Tuesday, July 15, 2014, at the Mahaska Health Partnership Hospice Serenity House in Oskaloosa. Funeral services were Friday, July 18, 2014 at the New Sharon United Methodist Church. Burial was in the Friends Cemetery in New Sharon



immediately following the church service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the "Leon Mitchell Memorial Fund" to be used to benefit students at North Mahaska High School.

Richard Leon Mitchell, the son of Ralph and Lois (Bartlett) Mitchell, was born on March 14, 1933, in Rose Hill. He was a 1952 graduate of

Lacey High School. On September 1, 1952, Leon was united in marriage to Mary Coffey at the New Sharon United Methodist Church. To this union three children were born: Mike, Tom and Brenda. Leon began farming with his father in 1948, while he was still in high school. Following his father's death in 1973, Leon continued to run the family farm and expanded his farming operation to around 2,000 acres. In 1968, Leon began raising Charolais cattle and built the herd to 100 head. Throughout his lifetime, he worked for Afton T.V., Texaco Filling Station and as a substitute mail carrier. He also drove the school bus at age 16. Leon enjoyed attending rodeos, roping cattle, square dancing, working on his farm machinery and coffee time at the McVay Center. Leon was a member of the New Sharon Methodist Church, Prairie Knolls Country Club, Lions Club, New Sharon Rodeo Club, Mahaska County Sheriff Posse, Sharon Squares and a neighborhood card club. To describe Leon simply and perfectly, he was devoted to and truly loved farming, caring for his Charolais cattle, but most of all, his wife and family.

His memory will be cherished by his wife of 62 years, Mary Mitchell of New Sharon; three children, Mike (Barb) Mitchell of Ankeny, Tom (Peggy) Mitchell of Gainesville, Fla., and Brenda (Charlie) Sparks of New Sharon; nine grandchildren, Wendy, Alison, Candi, Travis, Michael, Jamie, Annalaya, Ashley and Jared; one godson, Dusty; 16 great-grandchildren; two god grandchildren; one brother, Leroy Mitchell of Des Moines; and one sister, Elaine (Gene) DeBoef of Punta Gorda, Fla.

Leon was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Lois Mitchell.

The Mitchell family gratefully and thankfully acknowledges the outstanding care that Leon received from the doctors, nurses, and staff at the University of Iowa Hospital, the Grinnell Hospital, and the Serenity House.

Revard 7-31-2014