ROBERT MELVIN BURGGRAAF

Robert Burggraaf, 94 of New Sharon passed away Tuesday afternoon, September 30, 2014, at the Pella Regional Health Center in Pella. Funeral services were held Saturday, October 4, 2014, at the New Sharon Assembly of God Church. Burial was in the Union Mills Cemetery at Union Mills. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Assembly of God Church “building fund” or the New Sharon Fire and Rescue. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.hollandcoblenfernaldhomes.com. Holland-Coble Funeral Home of New Sharon is in charge of arrangements.

Robert Melvin Burggraaf, the son of Walter and Clarissa Leola (Patton) Burggraaf, was born on December 24, 1919, near Union Mills in Union Township in Mahaska County. He attended McMains Country School. Following country school, Bob helped his father on the family farm near New Sharon. On February 25, 1940, Bob was united in marriage to Bonita “Bonnie” McCaulley at the New Sharon Assembly of God Church. To this union five children were born, Bob, Rozann, Terry, Kevin and Bonita. A lifetime farmer, Bob farmed in the New Sharon, Eddyville and Cedar areas. He also worked construction in the winter months and was a night watchman for William Penn University for more than 25 years.

A man deep of faith of God, Bob and Bonnie did mission projects in Arizona and North Dakota and they also raised 23 foster children. To this day, many of those children still refer to Bob as dad or grandpa. Bob had a passion for music, and he took great pride in his children participated in it. Bob had a servant’s heart and was always looking for ways to help people. Bob and Bonnie supported Teen Challenge in Colfax and the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union “WCTU.”

He was a member of the Farm Bureau and a lifetime member of the Assembly of God Church, where he was very active serving as a Deacon, teaching Sunday School along with Bonnie, having nursery duty and serving as a Board Member when they built the new church in Oskaloosa.

His memory will be cherished by his wife of 74 years, Bonnie Burggraaf of New Sharon; children, Bob (Helen) Burggraaf of Park Hills, Mo., Rozann Burggraaf of New Sharon, Irma Burggraaf, wife of Terry, of Charlotte, N.C., Kevin (Cynthia) Burggraaf of Johnston and Bonita (Dennis) Moore of New Sharon; nine grandchildren, Sherry Kernan, Tammy (Brandon) McDaniel, Darin (Shonda) Burggraaf, Michael (Sarah) Burggraaf, Angie (Kali) Kwashie, Aaron (Kaci) Moore, Jackie Burggraaf, Katherine (Sam) Grasso and Kelly Burggraaf; 12 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; a sister-in-law, Betty Burggraaf of Bettendorf; numerous foster children, many nieces, nephews and friends.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Terry Burggraaf; and a brother, Russell Burggraaf.