

KENNETH ELMER WALSTON

Kenneth Walston, 90 of New Sharon passed away Saturday evening, April 18, 2015 at the Mahaska Health Partnership Hospice Serenity House in Oskaloosa. Funeral services will begin at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at the New Sharon First Christian Church. Burial will be in the Friends Cemetery in New Sharon. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to New Sharon First Christian Church or Hospice.

Kenneth Elmer Walston was born on July 27, 1924 in Dallas County, at his Grandfather, John Walston's farm. He was the first child of six born to Elmer and Mary (Lake) Walston. His parents purchased a farm nine miles southwest of New Sharon in 1926, and Kenny lived on that farm until he retired in 1987. He attended Elm Grove Country School and then to Lacey High School for three years until he had to leave to help his dad with the farming. Later, in winter of 1970, he attended GED night classes at North Mahaska High School and received his diploma. On May 28, 1948, he married Joyce Louise Adkins at the Little Brown Church in Nashua. Kenny and Joyce adopted a 19-day old baby girl in February 1958 and named her Susan Joy.

In 1945, he joined partnership with his dad farming. Kenny's brother Bill came into the partnership and later his brothers Carrol and Gary started farming also. They all had their own farms and took great pride, love and commitment in caring for the land building terraces, ponds, dikes, and doing tiling to be true stewards of their land.

Kenny served on boards of many organizations through the years including Mahaska County Farm Bureau for several years and Mahaska County Farm Services for 9 years. 30 years on ASCS committees with 20+ of those years on the county committee. He served several years on Elm Grove School Board and he spent many years serving as a member in the First Christian Church of New Sharon as deacon and elder, on the church board and other various committees. He also bowled several years on 2 leagues and loved playing softball in New Sharon through the 1950's.

Kenny and Joyce retired from the farm in December of 1987 and moved into their new home in New Sharon with their granddaughter Kendra. He served on more boards in New Sharon; Prairie Homes, Capri Theater, Friends Cemetery and a charter member at Prairie Knolls Country Club where he spent many years playing golf with his friends. Most weekday mornings he spent an hour with his coffee buddies at the fire station. He also spent many years creating beautiful walnut furniture from the trees grown on his farm to give to family and friends. Kenny and Joyce also enjoyed traveling across the USA & Canada. He was a good neighbor and a friend to everyone, always willing to help in any way he could. Christmas Eve was the special time of the year with 30-40 family members coming every year since 1961. It was always great fun. He was a loving son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, uncle and cousin to his and Joyce's extended families and many friends. He was an honorable man in the true meaning of one.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Joyce of almost 67 years, daughter Susan Walton of Montezuma, granddaughter Kendra (Charlie) Charbonneau of New Sharon, and great-grandson Taylor Kenneth Charbonneau of New Sharon. One sister Iva (Dean) Anderson of New Sharon, 2 sister-in-laws, Jimolene Walston of New Sharon and Berdene Walston of What Cheer, 1 brother-in-law, Les Septer of New Sharon, 9 nephews and 14 nieces, and many great nephews & nieces and their children.

He was preceded in death by his father Elmer, mother Mary, one older ½ sister and husband, Darlene & Devern VanGorp, one older ½ brother & wife, Bert & Geni Leeper, 3 brothers, Carrol Walston, Wilmore (Bill) Walston and Gary Walston, 1 sister Norma Patterson, father and mother-in-law William and Margaret Adkins, 2 sister-in-laws Georgia (Puddie) Septer and Mary Walston, 1 brother-in-law & wife Arnold & Barbara Adkins, 1 nephew, 2 nieces, and 3 great nieces.

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