L. Rex Craver, 90

L. Rex Craver, 90, of rural Montezuma, died Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2005 at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids. His funeral service was held on Saturday, Nov. 19, at the Harden Funeral Home in New Sharon with the Rev. Joann Hary of the Montezuma United Methodist Church officiating. Burial followed at Friends Cemetery in New Sharon with military honors given by members of the Coffin-Miller American Legion Post No. 446. Harden Funeral Home of New Sharon was in charge of the arrangements.

L. Rex Craver was born on Feb. 1, 1915 in Taintor to Glen B. and Opal Stanley Craver. A 1932 graduate of New Sharon High School, Rex taught at the Mill Grove Country School near New Sharon for six years. On Dec. 23, 1939, Rex was united in marriage to Ilo Mae Springer in Oskaloosa. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Tri-State University in Angola, Ind. Soon after, he joined the U.S. Army as a 1st Lieutenant and served in the Pacific Theater during World War II as a radar specialist with the Signal Corps. Rex returned from the service to Des Moines where he worked for Iowa Power and Light. He farmed near New Sharon for a short time and then moved to Springville in 1951. Rex was an electrical engineer for Collins Radio in Cedar Rapids and retired after 20 years of service. He moved to the Quad Cities where he worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for 10 years, retiring in 1980. In 1981, he and his wife moved to Montezuma where he enjoyed his gardening. They wintered in Texas for 22 years. An avid reader, genealogist and conservationist, Rex was a member of the Springville Masonic Lodge No. 139 AF & AM and the Coffin-Miller American Legion Post No. 446 of New Sharon.

Rex is survived by his wife, Ilo Mae, of Montezuma; his son, Marvin R. Craver and wife Pam of Cedar Rapids; his daughter, Louise K. Orozco and husband John of Keokuk; four grandchildren, Leslie (Tony) Kach, Jaclyn (Lance) Sullivan and Benjamin and Erin Orozco; two great-grandchildren, AJ and Lauren Kach; and a brother, Leland Craver and wife Katherine of New Sharon.

He was preceded in death by a nephew, Dennis Craver.

Memorials in his name may be directed to the Poweshiek County Genealogical Society or to the Montezuma Public Library.