

Wendell W. Sanders



Wendell W. Sanders, 82, of Gilman died on Saturday, Sept. 3, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

Funeral services for Wendell Sanders were held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 7, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. George Salnave, pastor of the Montezuma Presbyterian Church, officiating. Casketbearers included his grandchildren, Mark, Mathew, Melissa and Bradley Sanders and Rob and Jamey Gibson. Burial was at the Jackson Township Cemetery in Montezuma.

Born June 7, 1923, on the family farm near Searsboro, he was the son of Roy and Mildred Greenly Sanders. He attended rural schools and assisted his father and later his uncle in farming in his youth.

On Friday, Feb. 12, 1943, he married Betty Louise Sanders in Maryville, Mo. The couple had three children. He had been inducted into the U.S. Army only days before and served in Germany and France.

Following the war, he returned to Montezuma; the family moved to Phoenix, Ariz., in January of 1949, where he worked for the Phoenix Water Association for nine years. They then returned to Deep River, where they farmed for a few years.

From May 1966 to July 1985, he worked in the Building and Grounds Department of Grinnell College.

After the death of his first wife, he married JoAnne Ward in 1979. The couple lived in Gilman and enjoyed camping, playing cards and making lawn ornaments.

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Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. George Salnave, pastor of the Montezuma Presbyterian Church, officiating. Burial was at the Jackson Township Cemetery in Montezuma. Smith Funeral Home of Grinnell was in charge of the arrangements.

Casketbearers were his grandchildren, Mark, Mathew, Melissa and Bradley Sanders, Rob and Jamey Gibson.

Wendell was born on June 7, 1923, on the family farm near Searsboro to Roy and Mildred Greenly Sanders. He attended rural school and assisted his father and later his uncle with farming.

On Feb. 12, 1943, he was married to Betty Louise Sanders in Maryville, Mo., and to this union were born three children, Edgar Roy, Harold Wayne and Jane Ann. He was inducted into the United States Army on Feb. 9, 1943, and served in Germany and France. Following the war he returned to Montezuma. In January of 1949, the family moved to Phoenix, where he worked for the Phoenix Water Association for nine

years. The couple moved to Deep River and farmed for a few years. From May of 1966 to July of 1985 he worked in the Building and Grounds Department of Grinnell College.

Following the death of his first wife, he was married to JoAnne Ward in 1979. The couple lived in Gilman and enjoyed camping, playing cards and making lawn ornaments.

He is survived by his wife, JoAnne Sanders of Gilman; two sons, Edgar Sanders and his wife, Gerri, of Grinnell and Harold Sanders, of Blue Springs, Mo.; one daughter, Jane Ann Vargason and her husband, Kenny, of Montezuma; two stepdaughters, Sheryl Potter and her husband, Kevin, of Benton, and Linda Bertolette, of Marshalltown; one stepson, Jim Ward and his wife, Susie, of Gilman; grandchildren Mark, Mathew, Bradley and Melissa Sanders and Rob and Jamey Gibson; grandchildren Jayden, Colin, Brett and Drew Gibson, Jacob, Gage, Breanna and Jena Sanders; step-grandchildren Darrin Bear, J.C. Ward, Ethan and Garretter, and Beth Ann Bertolette; and sisters, Glema Wiley and her husband, Eldon, of Oskaloosa, and Gail Sanders of Oskaloosa.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Betty; one grandson and two sisters, Opal Thompson and Pauline Pargeon.

Memorials may be directed to Grinnell Regional Hospice.

He is survived by his wife; two sons, Edgar Sanders of Grinnell and Harold Sanders of Blue Springs, Mo.; a daughter, Jane Ann Vargason of Montezuma; two step-daughters, Sheryl Potter of Benton, Ky., and Linda Bertolette of Marshalltown; a stepson, Jim Ward of Gilman; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; and two sisters, Glema Wiley and Gail Sanders, both of Oskaloosa.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife; a grandson; and two sisters, Opal Thompson and Pauline Pargeon.

Memorials may be directed to Grinnell Regional Hospice.

MR. SEPT. 14, 2005

MR. SEPT. 12, 2005