Wendell W. Sanders, 82

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 Sainave, 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.

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 Bertolletto of Marshalltown; a stepson, Jim Ward of Gilman; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; and two sisters, Glenna Wiley and Gail Sanders, both of Oskaloosa.

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

Memorials may be directed to Grinnell Regional Hospice.

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