

H-A 1-31-2005

Lawrence Thomas



Lawrence Thomas, 86, of Grinnell died Thursday, Jan. 27, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A funeral service was held Monday at Smith Funeral Home with John Epperson, pastor of Grinnell Christian Church, officiating. Casket bearers were Dahl and Randy Wickham, Wayne and Wiley VanOmmen, Ronald Curry and Artie Craver. Burial was in Hazelwood Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Grinnell Elks Building Fund.

He was born Sept. 4, 1918, in Rock Creek Township, rural Grinnell, to Charles and Flonnie Thompson Thomas. He was raised on the family farm, attended rural school and graduated from Grinnell High School. During World War II he served with the United States Army in the Asiatic and Pacific Theaters. On April 24, 1944, he was united in marriage with Frances Shaffer in Eldora. They farmed near Malcom until 1949 when they moved to a farm in the Forest Home area southwest of Montezuma where he raised purebred Hereford cattle.

He was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying hunting and fishing; playing cards and judging at the county fair. He was a member of the Grinnell Elks Lodge. The Iowa Cattlemen's Association, the Iowa Hereford Association, the Farm Bureau and a life-long member of the National Riflemen's Association.

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His funeral service was held Monday, Jan. 31, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. John Epperson officiating. Interment was at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell with military rites.

Casket bearers were Ronald Curry, Mike Mintle, Wayne VanOmmen, Wiley VanOmmen, Dahl Wickham and Randy Wickham.

Lawrence was born on Sept. 4, 1918, in Rock Creek Township near Grinnell to Charles and Flonnie Thompson Thomas. He was raised on the family farm, attended rural school and graduated from Grinnell High School. During World War II he served with the U.S. Army in the Asiatic and Pacific Theatres.

On April 24, 1944, he was united in marriage with Frances Shaffer at Eldora. The couple farmed near Malcom until

1949 when they moved to a farm in the Forest Home area southwest of Montezuma. While farming he raised purebred Hereford cattle.

Lawrence was an avid outdoorsman and he enjoyed hunting and fishing, playing cards and judging at the county fair. He was a member of the Grinnell Elks Lodge, the Iowa Cattleman's Association and the Iowa Hereford Association, the Farm Bureau, The V.F.W. of Montezuma and a life-long member of the National Riflemen's Association.

He is survived by one daughter, Sheila Sadler of rural Grinnell; one son, Jerry Thomas of Victor; three grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; five step-great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Lillian Leadmon of Newton and Dorothy Thomas of Ankeny.

Lawrence was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, three brothers, Glen, Cleo and Donald Thomas; two sisters, Louise See and Irene Thomas; and one grandson, Jason.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Grinnell Elks Lodge Building Fund.

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He is survived by one daughter Sheila Sadler, rural Grinnell; one son Jerry Thomas of Victor; three grandchildren, three step grandchildren, three great grandchildren, five step great grandchildren and two sisters Lillian Leadmon of Newton and Dorothy Thomas of Ankeny. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; three brothers, Glen, Cleo and Donald Thomas; two sisters Louise See and Irene Thomas and one grandson, Jason.