Mel Uridil, 96

Mel Uridil, age 96, of Victor, died on Sunday, June 26, 2016, at Highland Ridge Care Center in Williamsburg.

A funeral service was held Friday, July 1, 2016, at the Smith Funeral Home in Victor with Pastor Jim Davis, Victor United Methodist Church, officiating. Interment with military rites will be at Victor Memorial Cemetery.

Visitation was on Thursday, in the Smith Funeral Home in Victor and his family greeted friends Thursday evening.

Memorials may be designated to the Highland Ridge Care Center and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 485, Victor, Iowa 52347. Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.smithfh.com.

Mel's family would like to express their sincere gratitude for the wonderful and loving care provided by the staff at Highland Ridge Care Center in Williamsburg.

Melvin James Uridil was born on March 17, 1920, in Toledo, Ohio, to Louis and Celia (Zeman) Uridil. He was raised in Toledo, Indiana, and Victor, respectively, and he graduated from Victor High School with the class of 1937.

Following his education, Mel began driving a stock truck and then a fuel truck for Emil DeMeulemaere in Victor. In 1941, Mel purchased the service station from Emil DeMeulemaere and one of the longest, family-owned service stations in Iowa was created, Mel's Standard Service, which served the Victor area for nearly 70 years. He was united in marriage to Gladys Pearl Shine on June 3, 1937, in Victor. The couple resided in Victor and was blessed with a daughter, Linda.

Mel honorably served in the United States Army from 1943 until 1946 during World War II and was stationed in Okinawa. During that time, Ed Cahill managed the service station for Mel. Following his military service, he returned to Victor and continued to operate the service station and Greyhound Bus Service. When Highway 90 was rerouted north of Victor, Mel expanded his operation to include servicing large trucks, the sale of International trucks, and later built the first car wash in Victor.

Mel's family and his service station were his life. He worked long hours at the service station, including Saturday, Sunday, but at noon on Sunday he closed the station so he could spend time with his family. He had a special love for his Dachshund dogs, Brownie and Rusty, and was very generous and enjoyed helping people each and every day, whether it was fixing a car or helping someone with a bill they couldn't pay. He was very proud of the family home that he built in the southwest corner of Victor in 1958. He spent countless hours enjoying the beautiful landscapes and sunsets through his front windows. Mel was a member of the Victor American Legion and served on the Victor City Council.

Mel is survived by his daughter, Linda (David) Shaul of Lovelace Grove, Oklahoma; three grandchildren: Anthony (Melanie) Shaul of Columbus, Indiana; Timothy (Jill) Shaul of Farmington, New Mexico, and Thomas (Tina) Shaul of Tulsa, Oklahoma; six great-grandchildren: Julia Ellis, Nandy Ryal, Chandrea, Ethan, Indy and Dalane Shaul; and three great-great grandchildren: Aden, Paisley and Roman Ryal. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Gladys Uridil in 1991; grandson, Tyler Shaul in 2002; brother, Leroy Uridil; and special friend, Marie Lind.

Family will greet friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday evening.

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