Gerald Van Soelen, 74, California

Gerald Van Soelen, 74, of Hanford, California passed away Dec. 31, 2005. Funeral services were held at the First Christian Reformed Church in Hanford, California, with burial in the Hanford Cemetery.

Gerald was born March 28, 1931, on a farm near Sully to Leonard and Alta (Van Hal) Van Soelen. The family moved to a farm near Pleasantville and he graduated from Pleasantville High School.

He joined the Navy and spent two years in Guam and the Philippines. Later while stationed in California he met Betty Hook and they were married Jan. 10, 1958.

Gerald was an instructor and counselor in the Hanford, California Joint Union High School until retiring in 1992.

He is survived by his wife, Betty, of 48 years; a daughter, Gayle (Jack) Zonneveld; a daughter, Janis (Allen) Simpa, both of California; a son, Bryan (Michelle) Van Soelen of Michigan; a sister, Ruth Tibboel of Des Moines; a brother, Paul Van Soelen of Ames; a sister-in-law, Marilyn Van Soelen of West Des Moines and a special aunt, Jennie Van Der Zyl of Pella.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Lloyd Van Soelen.