Chester Zylstra, 86, Pella

Chester Duco Zylstra, 86, of Pella passed away Aug. 7, 2005. Funeral services were held Aug. 10, at the Covenant Reformed Church in Pella. Interment was held at the Oakwood Cemetery in Pella. Memorials can be given to Hospice of Pella or the Pella Christian High School.

Chester Duco Zylstra was born on Jan. 22, 1919, in Sully. He was the youngest of ten children that were born to Martin Gerben and Bertha Schuttinga Zylstra. Duco, as he was known, attended Pella Christian Grade School and graduated from Pella High School. Following graduation, Duco established the Pella Engraving Company in 1937. When the call came, he enlisted in the armed services on Nov. 29, 1942; serving his country in the US Navy during World War II. He was an Aerial Photographer aboard the aircraft carrier USS Lexington in the South Pacific. He received his formal Honorable Discharge on Jan. 6, 1946. Upon his return home, Duco returned to the engraving company.

On Jan. 24, 1952, Duco was united in marriage to Leona M. Schilder at the First Christian Reformed Church in Pella. Lee, as she was known, was a daughter of Arie and Johanna Vander Beek Schilder. To this union, three children were born: Helen, James and Susan. Duco continued at Pella Engraving Company until his retirement in 1995; after working there for 58 years.

Duco is survived by his wife of 53 years, Lee, their three children and their families. The families are: Helen and Tom Van Dyke of Sheldon, Joel and Larissa Van Engen Van Dyke of Orange City, Greg Van Dyke of Sioux Center, Laura Van Dyke of Visalia, California, Megan Van Dyke of Sheldon, Erin Van Dyke of Sheldon; Jim and Debbie Wineland Zylstra of Pella, Sue and Duane Groenenboom of Oskaloosa, Andrew and Kristin Maassen Groenenboom of Lincoln, Nebraska, Emily and Ryan Baker of Palos Heights, Illinois, Hannah Groenenboom of Oskaloosa.

Of his original family, Duco leaves his sister Cornelia (Peter R.) Van Gorp. He is preceded in death by his parents: granddaughter, Amanda Van Dyke; sisters, Alyce M. Ver Meer and her husband, Jacob A. Ver Meer; Anna Zylstra; brothers, Gerben, Rienk, Gerald, Paul and Cornie Zylstra and their wives; and a brother-in-law, Peter R. Van Gorp.