Gerald Stravers, 80, Pella

Gerald Stravers, 80, of Pella passed away Oct. 8, 2006. A memorial service was held Oct. 12, at the Calvary Christian Reformed Church in Pella. Interment was held at the Oakwood Cemetery. Memorials can be given to the Calvary Christian Reformed Church or for Gideons International.

Gerald (Jerry) Stravers was born on Feb. 13, 1926, near Galesburg. He was the fourth of six children that were born to the late John J. and Sarah (Vos) Stravers. His early education was at the Elk Creek Township Country School in Galesburg. Jerry graduated from Pella High School in Pella, on May 25, 1944. Jerry enlisted in the U.S. Army Corps that year and served the remainder of that year and during 1945 and was honorably discharged on Nov. 10, 1945. Following his discharge Jerry enrolled at Central College in Pella. While attending Central College Jerry met Lucille Helen Meyer.

They were united in marriage on June 2, 1948, in Eversly, and to this union three children were born: Randall, Linda and Jean. Following his graduation from Central College on June 6, 1949, with his degree in Business Administration, Jerry was employed in the office of the Rolscreen Company in Pella until August, 1961. Jerry then joined his brother, Tony Stravers, in Stravers True Value Hardware from which he retired in April, 1990.

Those who will cherish his memory are his wife, Lucille (Lucy); their three children and their husbands, nine grandchildren, one granddaughter-in-law and one great-granddaughter. They and their families are: Randall C. Stravers of Pella, Linda B. and Dann Veldkamp of Greenwood, Indiana, Amanda Veldkamp; Jean L. and Steve Vreeman Anchorage, Alaska, Isaiah Vreeman, Zachary and Meagan Vreeman, Eva Vreeman, Andrea Vreeman, Reuben Vreeman, Shiloh Vreeman, Amy Vreeman, Gideon Vreeman, Hannah Vreeman.

Of his original family Jerry leaves the following brothers and sisters-in-law: Joe and Pearl Stravers, Dick and Ruth Stravers all of Holland, Michigan; his sister and brother-in-law, Jan and Jim Monsma of Medford, Massachusetts; and his sisters-in-law: Jennie (Gilbert) Stravers of Sully, and Evie (Anthony) Stravers of Pella.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, John J. and Sarah Stravers; two brothers: Gilbert and Anthony (Tony) Stravers; and his parents-in-law, Lubert and Lena Meyer.