

Leonard Van Rees, 68, Sully

Leonard Van Rees, 68, of Sully passed away June 13, 2006. Funeral services were held June 16, at the Sully Christian Reformed Church. Interment was held at Sully Cemetery.



Memorials can be given to the Sully Christian Grade School or the Sully Library.

Leonard Joe Van Rees was born on Jan. 17, 1938 in Jasper County at Sully. He was the first of two children that were born to Clarence and Elizabeth Kingma Van Rees. Leonard attended the Sully Christian Grade School in Sully and graduated from the Sully High School with the Class of 1956. During high school, Leonard participated on the basketball team. Leonard grew up without a father as his father had drowned at Lake Keomah near Oskaloosa, when Leonard was 4 years of age. As a young lad, his Uncles shared responsibilities in raising him and he then shared responsibilities with Gilbert and Joyce Bandstra and their children on the farm.

On April 14, 1960, he was united

in marriage with Jenice Ilene Kruseman, a daughter of the late Milo and Vera Van Wyk Kruseman, at the Sully Community Church in Sully. To this union three daughters were born: Karla, Carol, and Karen. Following his marriage, Leonard was employed at the Sully Cooperative Exchange and then began driving truck. A trucker at heart, he drove for Sully Transport, Inc. for nearly 30 years and on Dec. 7, 1998, sustained disabling injuries which necessitated his retirement. Leonard was diagnosed with advanced cancer the last week of May, 2006.

Leonard is survived by his wife, Jenice, their three daughters and their husbands and seven grandchildren that he cherished. They are: Karla and Ron Graham of Des Moines, and their two children: Christina Ilene and Lucas James; Carol and Jeff Bakeris of Runnells, and their three children: Taylor Elizabeth, Samuel Jeffrey and Benjamin Joseph; Karen and Randy Rice of Lynnville, and their two daughters: Miranda Elizabeth and Cori Rianna.

Of his original family Leonard leaves his sister, Betty Ann and her husband, Norman Schuring of Sully. He was preceded in death by his parents.