

Anthony J. Oskam, 78, Newton

Funeral services were held April 18, at the Community Reformed Church in Newton for Anthony J. Oskam. Burial was held at the Oakwood Cemetery in Pella. Memorials are designated to the Community Reformed Church, The American Cancer Society or Hospice of Jasper County.

Tony, the son of Jan and Cornelia (Van Den Bos) Oskam, was born March 22, 1929, in Nigtevecht, Province Noord Holland, the Netherlands. He attended school in the Netherlands through college courses in business and economics.

His sister found a sponsor for Tony, Mr. Brunis Vandeweerd of Newton in July 1956. Tony moved to the Newton area, and became a US Citizen on the early 1960's, and you could hear him say, "I'm an American by choice." His first job was with Miles & Nikkel, mixing drywall mix (plaster). While visiting friends in Pella, Tony met and later married Bette Janet Vos on Dec. 27, 1957, in Pella. To this union were born five children: in 1958, they became parent of the twins, Bernard and Belinda, and later James, Kimberly and Melissa. Tony worked for the Vernon Company, painting show cards, windows, banners and murals, for 13 years. That was the beginning of Oskam Sign & Display, Inc. in Newton. Oskam's went from a few lettering brushes and paint, to the computer age.

Tony, a charter member of the Community Reformed Church in Newton, served as an elder,

Sunday school superintendent and Sunday school teacher; was a member of the International Electric Sign Assoc.; Central Sign Council and Iowa Sign Assoc. A former Rotarian, he had served on the board of Aging Resources and was a Resident Advocate at Heritage Manor and for Careage of Newton.

Tony passed away April 13, 2007, at the Skiff Medical Center in Newton. He was preceded in death by his parents; a great-granddaughter, Trinity Grace Oskam; a sister, Maartje Oskam Staat and her husband, Hendrik; a sister-in-law, Geertruida (Truus) Volenkamp Oskam; Bette's parents and her brother, PFC Bernard Wayne Vos.

Those left to honor the memory of Tony include his wife Bette of Newton; his children: the twins: Bernard "Bernie" Wayne (Renee) Oskam of Newton and Belinda (Gary) Birkenholtz of Newton, James Dale Oskam of Newton, Kimberly Kay (Robert) Van Arkel of Newton, and Melissa Beth (Randy) Graff of Newton; 10 grandchildren: Clint Anthony and Chad Ben Birkenholtz, Joshua James and Madison Mildred Oskam, Ryan Scott and Adam Robert Van Arkel, Rae Anne and Jeffery Wayne Oskam, Brandon Lee and Taylor Beth Graff; his brother, Cornelis (Cees) Oskam of Adriana, Holland; a sister, Ann (Joe) Van Walbeek of Otley; several nieces and nephews; and his many special friends and neighbors.

DT- APR 18, 2007