

PCCR Mar 18, 2009

Lester James Benda, 86

Lester James Benda, age 86, of Brooklyn, died Monday, March 9, 2009, at Brooklyn Community Estate in Brooklyn, following a brief illness. A memorial service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 12, at Kloster Funeral Home, Brooklyn, with the Rev. John Dodds officiating. Inurnment was at Rector Cemetery, rural Chelsea. A memorial fund has been established.

He is survived by his wife, Donna; his children, Elaine Wilcox (Daniel) of Johnson City, Tenn., Allan Benda (Sharon) of McComb, Ohio, and Mary Flander (Dennis) of Montezuma; five grandchildren, Melissa Grimm (Jeff) of Des Moines, Angie Flander and Travis Flander of Montezuma, Jeff Benda of Newton, and Michael Wilcox of Charleston, S.C.; and a great-grandchild, Aubrey Grimm of Des Moines.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and two brothers, Emil and William.

Lester James Benda was born Oct. 17, 1922, in Poweshiek County, the son of James and Barbara Polka Benda. He received his education in the Poweshiek County schools. Lester married Donna Mae Lepley on Nov. 23, 1952. The couple farmed north of Brooklyn for 48 years. Lester also worked at Amana Refrigeration for 26 years. He also worked part time for the Kiowa Foundry, the Gray Iron Foundry in Marshalltown, and for Funk's Hybrid Seed Company. He enjoyed going to farm and house auctions, liked old cars, and especially enjoyed spending time with his family.

Online condolences may be extended to the family via the Web ssite www.klosterfuneral-home.com.

