

Obituary

Ray Fleck, 88, of Oskaloosa

Ray Fleck, 88, of Oskaloosa, died Friday, July 25, 2008, at Crystal Heights Care Center in Oskaloosa.

He was born July 19, 1920, in Leighton, the son of Roy and Nellie Cruzen Fleck. On Feb. 25, 1944, he was united in marriage to Irene Chilcote in Oskaloosa.



He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Following their marriage they farmed for a year in the Leighton area, and then they moved to a farm south of Eddyville and farmed there for 26 years. Ray also drove a school bus for the Eddyville School District for 10 years. In 1972, Ray and Irene moved into Oskaloosa and he worked for Mathew Lumber, and later at Mahaska Bottling until his retirement. Ray had been attending Good News Chapel in Oskaloosa for a long time. He enjoyed several memorable fishing trips to Iowa lakes and ponds with his family. In retirement he held several seasonal jobs to keep himself busy, including: mowing at the country club, yard work, and sorting seed at seed corn companies. He also enjoyed woodworking: building birdhouses,

wheelbarrows, and Christmas decorations. He also enjoyed wintering in Arizona for 10 years. He took up golf at the age of 70 and kept it up until 3 years ago, though he still enjoyed going out to the driving range and just watching folks practice. He especially loved going to McDonalds with Irene.

His family includes his wife of over 64 years, Irene Fleck, of Oskaloosa; a son: LaVerne Fleck, of Ottumwa; two daughters and their husbands: Dixie and Adrian Lorenz, of Knoxville, and Vickie and Ron Nikkel, of Lynnville; three grandchildren: Bryan (and Michelle) Brees, Lisa (and Jeff) Bachelder, and Kelly (and Jason) Rozenboom; 12 great-grandchildren; a brother, Ivan (and Twyla) Fleck, of Broomsfield, Colo.; a sister, Rose Phillips, of What Cheer; and three sisters-in-law: Iola Fleck, of Pella, Pauline Ferns, of Oskaloosa, and Wyota Tennis, of Oskaloosa.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a granddaughter, Haley Brees; a grandson, Clint Nikkel; a brother, Omer Fleck; and two sisters: Verla Shilling and Dorothy Wycarver.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 29, at 1 p.m. in the Bates Funeral Chapel in Oskaloosa with Pastor Alvern Boetsma officiating. Burial will be in the Evergreen Cemetery near Leighton.

R. Fleck