

Walter Robert Lemke



Walter Robert Lemke, 85, of Grinnell, died Sunday, July 31, 2011, at the Mayflower Health Care Center in Grinnell.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 4, 2011, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with David Pinkerton, pastor of the Taintor Community Church, officiating. Casket bearers will be Lucas Laverman, Brian Lemke, Michael Mendoza, Chris Playle, Jason Playle, Mark Playle, Matt Playle and Will Playle. Interment will be in the Pleasant Township Cemetery near Ewart.

Family and friends may call at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell beginning 4 p.m. on Wednesday and the family will be present at the funeral home from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday.

Memorials may be directed to the Malcom Fire Department.

Walter was born on May 1, 1926, in Grinnell to Herman and Edith McMeekin Lemke. He was raised in the Ewart area southeast of Grinnell and attended rural school. In 1943, he entered the United States Army and served in the European theater until 1945.

On Dec. 27, 1945, he married Joyce Broyles in Montezuma. The couple had seven children, farmed west of Montezuma and later lived in Malcom. He worked as a press operator for the Donaldson Company for over 35 years. Following a divorce he married Mae Playle on Dec. 30, 1975, at the Little Brown Church in Nashua. The couple lived in New Sharon and later near Montezuma. Following the death of his wife he resided in Malcom and at Brookside South in Grinnell.

Walter was a member of the Malcom Volunteer Fire Department and the Malcom American Legion. He enjoyed playing cards, fishing, watching baseball, repairing automobiles and spending time with his family.

Survivors include his children, Connie Lemke of Marshalltown, Betty Bradley of Hedrick, Richard Lemke of Grinnell, Bruce Lemke of Oskaloosa, Ruth Laverman of Lynnville, Roberta Playle of New Sharon, and Edie Hefley of Newton; five step children, Rodney Playle, Gary Playle, and Chuck Playle, all of New Sharon; Roxanne Playle of Marshalltown and Linda Ozbun of State Center; several grandchildren and great grandchildren; two great great grandsons; one sister, Hazel Freeborn of Grinnell; and three brothers, Ralph Lemke of Grinnell, Marvin Lemke of Fort Leonardwood, Mo., and Calvin Lemke of Winchester, WV.

He was preceded in death by both of his spouses; his parents; one step daughter, Lisa Playle; two grandsons; one great granddaughter; one sister, Dorothy Haines; four brothers, Don, Leonard, Earl and Jim Lemke; and long-time friend, Jack Wakely.

PCCR 8-3-2011

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