

John G. Ahrens 6H-R
4-10-2014



John G. Ahrens, 70, of Montezuma, died Sunday, April 6, 2014, at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines.

Funeral services were scheduled for Thursday, April 10, at The Montezuma First Presbyterian Evangelical Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contribution may be made in John's honor to the Presbyterian Family Center Project or the Montezuma Community Development Fund. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.hollandcoblefuneralhomes.com.

John G. Ahrens, the son of John L. and Luverne E. Breed Ahrens, was born May 29, 1943, in Shawano, Wisc. His family moved to Grinnell in 1945 and later settled on a farm near Blue Pointe. He attended Searsboro High School and graduated from Grinnell High School in 1961, and afterwards, served in the National Guard.

On July 14, 1967, John was united in marriage with Joan Marie McKeag at St. John's Lutheran Church in Grinnell, and they had four children.

In 1964, John helped his family build and develop Lake Ponderosa. During that time, he built several houses, helped build roads, install waterlines, and formed the company Ponderosa Dredging. He worked for Ponderosa Utilities, Inc. and Lake Ponderosa Development, Inc. and served as president until the time of his death. Following

the vision of his father, John also developed neighboring Lakes Silverado and Cimarron.

John raised his family on an 80-acre homestead where he built his first log cabin and dammed seven ponds. He loved hunting and fishing and living off of the land, and planted several gardens every year. He heated his home with three woodstoves, and in 1986 brought home a herd of 60 Holstein dairy cows which the family milked cows for two-and-a-half years. His desire for living the 'cowboy life' eventually evolved into a 'cowboy's paradise' which included three log cabins, two barns and countless campfires. His love for horseback riding was evident in the many trail rides he organized. He also raised horses, goats and chickens, and the farm turned into a full-fledged petting zoo later to include peacocks, guineas, roosters, llamas and mules. John also enjoyed western movies, playing his guitars, traveling, cooking and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Joan Ahrens of Montezuma; daughter Barbie Ahrens-Lowry of Searsboro; son, John D. Ahrens of Montgomery, Ala.; daughters, Angela Luverne Ahrens of Juneau, Ark., and Christine Elizabeth Grimm of North English; 13 grandchildren; his mother, Luverne Evangeline Ahrens of Montezuma, two sisters, Mary Lu Watson and Connie Schmeiser; two brothers William Ahrens and Robert Ahrens; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

John was preceded in death by his father, John L. Ahrens.

John Ahrens 6H-R
4-7-2014
John Ahrens, 70, of Montezuma, died April 6, 2014.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, April 10, at the First Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Montezuma. Burial will be held at Pleasant Township Cemetery in Ewart.

Visitation will be Wednesday, April 9, at the Holland-Coble Funeral Home in Montezuma beginning at noon with the family present from 5 to 8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Presbyterian Family Center Project or the Montezuma Community Development Fund. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.hollandcoblefuneralhomes.com.

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On July 14, 1967 John was united in marriage to Joan Marie McKeag at St. John's Lutheran Church in Grinnell. To this union three daughters and one son were born; Barbara Joan, John Daniel, Angela Luverne, and Christine Elizabeth.

In 1964, John helped his family build and develop Lake Ponderosa. During that time, he built several houses, helped build roads, install waterlines, and formed the company Ponderosa Dredging. He worked for Ponderosa Utilities, Inc. and Lake Ponderosa Development, Inc. and served as president until the time of his death. Following the vision of his father, John also developed neighboring lakes Silverado and Cimarron; Lake Silverado began in 1997, and Lake Cimarron in 2006.

John raised his family on an 80-acre homestead where he built his first log cabin and dammed seven ponds. Living the pioneer life always appealed to him and showed in his love of hunting and fishing and living off of the land; every year he planted an average of seven gardens, and taught his children at a very early age to love vegetables. His gardens were a source of pride for him and well known in the area, as he was also fond of sharing the bounty with family and friends. He heated his home with three woodstoves, and in 1986 brought home a herd of 60 Holstein dairy cows, and the family milked cows for two and a half years. Over the years, his desire for living the "cowboy life" evolved into a "cowboy's paradise" which included three log cabins, two barns and countless campfires. His love for horseback riding was evident in the many trail rides he organized and shared with friends. He also raised horses, goats and chickens, and the farm turned into a full-fledged petting zoo later to include peacocks, guineas, roosters, llamas and mules. It has always attracted many visitors, and many grandchildren that love to feed the goats and visit the animals. John also enjoyed western movies, playing his guitars, traveling, cooking and spending time with his family. He especially treasured the time he spent with his grandson Wyatt, teaching him how to be a cowboy, taking him fishing and being his "Grandpa Rooster."

John's memory will be honored by his wife of 46 years, Joan Ahrens of Montezuma; daughter Barbie (Denny Lowry) Ahrens-Lowry of Searsboro; son, John D. Ahrens of Montgomery, Ala.; daughters, Angela Luverne Ahrens (Peggy Brown) of Juneau, Alaska, and Christine Elizabeth (Jeff) Grimm of North English; grandchildren Wyatt Cecil and John Simon Grimm, Brandon (Stephanie) Lowry, Coral, Corbin and Cade, Caprice (Joel) De Jong, Caymen and Cruz, and Brigitte (Jason) Shamy, Kira, Bentley and Presley; his mother, Luverne Evangeline Ahrens of Montezuma; two sisters, Mary Lu Watson and Connie Schmeiser; two brothers William Ahrens and Robert Ahrens; and many nieces, nephews and friends. John was preceded in death by his father, John L. Ahrens.

PCCR John G. Ahrens, 70 4-16-2014

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John was preceded in death by his father, John L. Ahrens.