

Record

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023

Obituaries . . .

NEIL J. NILLES

Feb. 9, 1929 - Feb. 8, 2023

Neil J. Nilles, 93, of What Cheer, passed away February 8, 2023 (one day short of his 94th birthday) at Manor House Care Center in Sigourney.



Services were February 13 at Holland-Coble Funeral Home, What Cheer with Pastor D.J. Danner officiating. Burial was at Indianapolis Cemetery.

Nilles was born February 9, 1929, in What Cheer, the son of Roy C. And Opal (Moore) Nilles.

After graduating from high school in 1946, he immediately joined the U.S. Army following WWII and served in Japan in the Occupation Forces as a military police officer.

At the end of his service, he returned to What Cheer, and after working briefly in a packing plant in Des Moines, he joined his dad in the family business, Nilles Klotting and Kleaning.

After returning stateside, he married Arlene Phillips, and to this union two children were born, Monte and Shelley. They later divorced.

He owned and operated the business and enjoyed serving the people of What Cheer and the surrounding areas. He was a good businessman and he knew his customers' sizes and what they wanted and needed for clothing and shoes, and he later added a dry cleaning service to the business. He retired in July 1992, closing the 105 year-old family business.

In 1974, he married Anna (McBeth) McClure. Neil really enjoyed What Cheer and its people. He ate breakfast daily at the local restaurants and joked and kidded with all; he was a prankster and used his sense of humor to win over many.

He served on the city council for several years, played in a local dart-ball league, played on an adult slow-pitch ball team, coached youth baseball, and co-managed the men's fast-pitch softball team. Neil had a genuine love for dogs and for years he raised miniature schnauzers and sold puppies throughout Iowa and surrounding states.

He won awards showing dogs in American Kennel Club dog show events. Over his lifetime, he had Great Danes, a poodle, a beagle, as well as Labrador retrievers and coon hounds for hunting. He really enjoyed pheasant and coon hunting with his son, friends, and relatives.

He is survived by his son, Monte (Marcia) Nilles, a daughter, Shelley (Rich) Hornung, a step-son, Howard McClure, grandchildren Mari Ann (Owen) Heires, Jay Hornung, Tim Hornung, Justin Clarahen, Jessica Glasgow, a sister, Rita Skupien, a brother-in-law and good friend, Jim Murray, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a step-daughter Rhonda McClure, a sister, Margaret Murray, a brother-in-law, Jack Skupien.