

Leland Vander Linden, 88, Leighton

Leland Vander Linden, 88, of Leighton passed away on Sept. 17, 2007. Funeral services were held Sept. 21, at the First Reformed Church in Pella. Casket bearers were his grandsons. Honorary bearers were his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Interment was held at the Vander Linden Oakwood Cemetery in Pella. Memorials can be given to the First Reformed Church of Pella or the Alzheimer's Association.

Leland Roy Vander Linden was born July 7, 1919 near Otley. He was the youngest of three children that were born to Dick and Jennie Van Ginkel Vander Linden. Leland attended the Silver Grove Country Grade School. As a young lad, he began working as a farmhand for his uncle Clarence Vander Linden. Leland drove a Ford coupe which he and his brother, Elmer Vander Linden, often both wanted to use. While visiting in a park in Pella he met Elizabeth Margaret Heemsbergen. Leland and Betty, as she was known, were united in marriage on Nov. 1, 1939, in the Little

Brown Church as Nashua. To this union four sons were born: Robert Lee who died in infancy in 1944, Larry Wayne, Gene Allen and Max Eldon. Following their marriage, they lived on a farm north of Pella and in the early 1940's moved to a farm northeast of Leighton. The first few years they rented and eventually purchased the farm. Farming was not only a way of living for Leland but a way of life. He enjoyed farming and being right at home in their beautiful, comfortable home.

In October of 2006, their health needs required further assistance and supervision. Leland and Betty then became residents at the New Sharon Nursing and Rehab Center in New Sharon.

Leland and Betty raised a nice family while enduring tragedy when their son, Gene and his wife Sharon (Sneller) Vander Linden were killed in a tragic auto accident at the young ages of 23 and 24 years respectively on Nov. 23, 1969.

Those who will cherish his memory are his wife of nearly 68 years, Betty; two sons and their wives; nine grandchildren and their families.

They are: Larry W. and Debra Vander Linden of Oskaloosa, Jason and Amber Vander Linden of Lynnville, Tanner Briggs, Tyson and

Aysia Vander Linden, Rachel Vander Linden, Krista Vander Linden, and Ashley Vander Linden, Kelly Vander Linden, Johnathon, Michael Vander Linden; (Gene A. and Sharon Vander Linden), Rick and Becky Vander Linden of Knoxville, Rechelle, Chelsea Vander Linden, Kathy Foust of Urbandale, Dylan De Penning, Austin Foust; Max E. and Jennifer Vander Linden of Wellsville, Kansas, Patrick Feist, Curtis and Audrey Vander Linden, Brittney, Bryce, Madison and C.J. Vander Linden, Lisa and Kelly Garrett, Taylor, Brady, Jacob, Kirby and Alec Garrett.

Leland was the last surviving member of his original family. He was preceded in death by his still-born son, Robert; his son, Gene and his wife, Sharon Vander Linden; his parents: Dick and Jennie Vander Linden; his oldest sister, Erma and her husband, Hubert Slings and his brother, Elmer Vander Linden and his wife, Pauline (Verros) Olivier.

Leland was baptized at the Otley Reformed Church as an infant and for many years was a faithful member of the First Reformed Church in Pella. He enjoyed woodworking and camping and wanted to be remembered as a faithful husband, good day and great grandpa.

DT 9/26/07