

OBITUARIES PCCR May 13, 2009

Vernard G. Block, 83

Vernard G. Block, 83, of Hartwick, died on Monday, May 4, 2009, at the Mayflower Health Care Center in Grinnell.

A funeral service was held at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 8, at St. James Lutheran Church in Victor, with the Rev. Michael Kolesar, pastor of the church, officiating. Music was provided by Alan Hafner, organist, and Teri and Barb Neuhaus, vocalists. Casket Bearers were Lonny Koehn, Roger Pawlak, David, Greg and Michael Read and James Timm. A flag presentation was conducted by the Victor American Legion. Interment was at the Union Cemetery in Hartwick.

Memorials may be directed to the Union Cemetery, St. James Lutheran Church, or to the Hartwick Fire Department.

Vernard was born on Feb. 21, 1926, on the family farm near Hartwick, to Loren and Philomena Chvala Block. He was raised in Hartwick, and graduated from Hartwick High School with the Class of 1943. He served with the United States Army from 1952 to 1954.

On Dec. 24, 1949, he was married to Emily Hiemstra in Des Moines. The couple lived in Hartwick, and he was self-employed as a carpenter, and operated a custom corn shelling business and a machine shop. His wife died in 1963, and he was married to Suzanne Van Hamme Wiedemeier on May 23, 1965, at the Little Brown Church in Nashua.

Vernard was a member and Elder of St. James Lutheran Church in Victor, the Iowa Fireman's Association, the Hartwick Volunteer Fire Department for over 40 years, and the Victor American Legion. He served on the Hartwick City Council from 1955 to 1984, and was Mayor of Hartwick in 1956 and 1957. He enjoyed volunteering for the SHARE Program and being a blood donor. He also enjoyed flying his 172 Cessna Skyhawk, dancing, polka music, socializing with family and friends, and carpenter work.

He is survived by one son, Marty Block of Hartwick; one step-son, Larry Wiedemeier of Des Moines; two step-daughters, Sally Campbell of Dallas, Texas, and Karen Wiedemeier of Des Moines; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one sister, Elaine Bigbee of Grinnell.

He was preceded in death by his parents; both of his wives; and one brother, Garlan Block.



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Friends may call at the Smith Funeral Home in Victor Thursday beginning at 12 noon with family members present from 5 to 8 p.m. Memorials may be made to Union Cemetery, St. James Lutheran Church or to the Hartwick Fire Department.

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May 7, 2009 HR