Arnold F. Tanke Sr., 78

Arnold F. Tanke Sr, 78, of Princeton, Ill., and formerly of Deep River, died on Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009, at the home of his daughter, Ruth Tanke, in Princeton.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 8, at the Calvary Lutheran Church in Deep River with the Rev. Thomas Shumaker, pastor of the church, officiating. Casket Bearers will be Keith Fisch, Dwayne Tanke, Steve Pierce, John Moore, Greg Strohman and Gary Bates. Honorary Bearers will be Verne Gerard, Larry Grier, Lawrence Pidima and Don Brau. Interment will be at the Golden Rod Cemetery in Deep River.



Friends may call at the Smith Funeral Home in Victor beginning at noon on Wednesday, Jan. 7, and the family will be present at the funeral home from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday.

Arnold was born on July 10, 1930, near Deep River, to William and Marie Koehn Tanke Sr. He was raised on the family farm and attended rural school. He assisted his family with farm duties and later worked for area farmers. During the Korean Conflict, he served with the U.S. Army and received two Bronze Stars for his service to our country in Korea.

On Feb. 16, 1958, he was married to Dorothy Schultz in Deep River. The couple lived in the Deep River area where he farmed and worked for the railroad. He also worked for grain elevators in Guernsey and Brooklyn, and prior to his retirement, he was an attendant at the Meskwaki Casino near Tama.

Arnold enjoyed fishing, gardening, dart ball, playing black jack, and spending time with his grandchildren.

He is survived by his four sons, Mark (Diane) Tanke of Toledo, Ronnie (Kim) Tanke of Williamsburg, Marvin (Laurie) Tanke of Guernsey, and Arnold Tanke Jr. of Williamsburg; two daughters, Ruth (Don) Tanke of Princeton, Ill., and Rose (Bill) Cooper of Gibson; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; one brother, William "Bill" Tanke of Deep River; and two sisters, Elaine Bates and Imogene Pierce, both of Keswick.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and one brother, Leland Tanke.