

MERLEN CARL BAETHKE, 68, of Deep River died Aug. 14 at Vets Hospital, Iowa City.

He was born Dec. 26, 1920 in Howard County, the son of August Carl and Bertha Clara Elizabeth Koehn Baethke. He was baptized at Maple Leaf Lutheran Church and confirmed at St. John's Lutheran Church, Lincoln Twp., Iowa County.

On Oct. 3, 1944 he was united in marriage with Florence Weiss at St. James Lutheran Church in Victor.

He served in World War II as a U. S. Navy gunner. He operated the Baethke Construction Co. until his retirement. He was a member of Calvary Lutheran Church and the American Legion.

He is survived by his five children: Mrs. Marcia Anne Tarvin of Montezuma, Mrs. Barbara Jo Morrison of Atlanta, Ga.; Nelson Carl Baethke of Cedar Rapids; Clayton Alan Baethke and his wife, Teresa Mary Kelly of Boca Raton, Fla., and Nancy Elizabeth Lee of Gresham, Ore.

Also surviving are three brothers: Melburn of Centerville, Elmer of Keswick, Floyd of Montezuma, and one sister, Mrs. Viola George of North English. Other survivors: grandchildren Angela, Tracey and Scott Tarvin, Lora and Jeff Morrison, and Benjamin Lee.

He was preceded in death by his father in 1970, his mother in 1971, and his wife, Florence, in 1973.

Services were Aug. 19 at Calvary Lutheran Church with the Rev. Kenneth Wagener officiating. Casket-bearers were Chris Moode, Steve Rauch, Vaughn Hopwood, Daryl Goodlow, Gerald Bates, Keith Montross.

Burial was in Golden Rod Cemetery, Deep River, with military rites by Morrison-Schrader Legion Post 296.