

Maurice A. DeGeeter

The Mass of Christian Burial was held Saturday morning, Oct. 11, in St. Patrick's Catholic Church, for Maurice A. DeGeeter, 80, of Brooklyn, who died Wednesday, Oct. 8, 1997, in Veterans Administration Medical Center, Des Moines. A rosary service was held Friday evening at the Nevenhoven Funeral Home.

The celebrant was the Rev. Fr. Michael J. Rogers. The organist was Marilyn Kriegel and the soloist was Karin Edelen. Honorary casketbearers were Orvis Wagaman and Jim Hurst, both POW comrades, Dale Cleppe and Steven Woolley. Casketbearers were Gene Stanerson, John Woolley, Richard DeGeeter, Roger DeGeeter, David Cleppe and George Cleppe. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Brooklyn, with military rites conducted by members of Francis Gallagher American Legion Post #294.

Maurice Albert DeGeeter, son of Kamiel and Clemonse DeCrane DeGeeter, was born March 24, 1917, on a farm near Hartwick.

He received his education at the Hartwick Consolidated School, graduating from high school in 1937. After graduation from high school, Maurice farmed with his father. On Oct. 16, 1941, he was married to Clare Cleppe at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Brooklyn.

Maurice served in the Army during World War II for 52 months, May 1, 1941, through Sept. 2, 1945. He was in the 168th Infantry, 34th Division. He was sent overseas on Feb. 2, 1942, to make the invasion in Tunisia, Africa. On Feb. 17, 1943, he was captured by the German army and held prisoner of war for 27 months. On April 21, 1945, he was liberated by the Russians and back to freedom.

He received three bronze stars and numerous other medals authorized by Congress recognizing the special services and sacrifices that he had given for his country.

He continued to farm until 1960, at which time he purchased the Ben Franklin Store in Brooklyn and operated it for two years. In March 1962, he was employed by the U.S. Postal Service. He was a mail carrier of Route #1 of Brooklyn. In March 1987, he received a service recognition of 30 years of service to the U.S. Postal service.

Maurice was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and Francis Gallagher American Legion Post #294 of Brooklyn. He served on the Board of Directors of Brooklyn Municipal Utilities.

Survivors include his wife, Clare; one daughter, Carol, and her husband, Kevin Adair, of Marshalltown; one son, Norman, and his wife, Linda; one brother, Julian DeGeeter, of Brooklyn; and five grandchildren, Danielle, Dana, Pascale, Devin and Chris.

A memorial fund has been established.

October 15, 1997