

## **John James Rens BC March 7, 2001**

John James Rens died Feb. 28, 2001 in Pompano Beach, Fla.

His funeral was held March 5, 2001, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Brooklyn. Father Joseph Rogers was the celebrant. Pallbearers were Jack Lowe, Gabe Lowe, Alan Riead, Scott Lane, Dennis Riead and Ken Riead. Organist was Angie Hawkins.

John was born in Pella to Cornelius Johannes and Hendrina Maria (Geerlings) Rens, on March 29, 1913. He was reared in Iowa and Michigan.

The tragedy of depression forced him to leave high school early. In April of 1942, John joined the Naval Air Corps as Second Class Machinist's Mate, serving in Olathe, Kan., and Coco Solo, Panama. While in the navy, he continued his education at the college level with distinction.

John married Annette O'Meara on April 10, 1944. They were the parents of John P. and Catherine. He worked a number of jobs, ranging from a flooring mill in West Plains, Mo., to Geerlings' Feed Mill in Waterloo. In the 1980's, he ran a small farm near Brooklyn.

After Annette's death, John married Lorraine Guthrie Peterson on Dec. 15, 1985. They spent their married life in Lake Placid, Fla.

John was preceded in death by his wife, Annette; his parents; his brother James Jacob, and his sister, Dena Henrika Riead.

He is survived by his wife, Lorraine; his son, Jay, of Brooklyn, and his daughter, Cathy Rens and her husband, Eric Giles, of Winston-Salem, SC; his granddaughters Andrea Rens Schwab of Iowa City, Sarah Rens of Brooklyn, and Leah and Hanna Giles of Winston-Salem; his great-granddaughter, Morgan Lorraine Schwab; and his sisters, Nellie Riead of Gladstone, Mo., and Arlene Rens Lane of Shawnee, Kan.