Harry Wallace "Wally" Mathes, 79

Harry Wallace "Wally" Mathes, 79, of rural Montezuma, died Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2004 from injuries received in an auto accident.

His funeral service was Sunday, Nov. 21, at United Methodist Church, Montezuma, with the Rev. Joann Hary officiating. Interment followed at Jackson Township Cemetery, Montezuma. Watts Funeral Home of Montezuma was in charge of the arrangements.

Pallbearers were Nathan Blydenburg III, Kyle Feusner, Dan Lucas III, Fred Lucas, Tom Lucas and Martin Lucas.

Wally was born Feb. 16, 1925 at Oskaloosa, the son of Harry George and Elsie Viola (Blanchard) Mathes. Wally graduated from Oskaloosa High School in 1942. He moved to Montezuma in 1943 to farm. He was a Korean War Army Veteran. On July 16, 1950, he was united in marriage with Shirley Blome at Hubbard. To this union, six children were born. Wally farmed all of his life south of Montezuma, was a member of the Montezuma United Methodist Church and did a lot of volunteer work for the church and 4-H in earlier years. He also served on the Conservation Commission for several years. Wally was a member of various saddle clubs and the Farmers Union. He enjoyed his horses and attending farm sales and auctions. He faithfully attended the Iowa State Fair and always enjoyed visiting with people. In their retirement years, he and Shirley enjoyed traveling.

Wally is survived by his wife, Shirley, and their family, Connie Jean Mathes of Montezuma, Cathie June (and Hector) Ochoa of Harrisonburg, Va., Jon Valentine Mathes of Pella, and Carolyn J. Mathes of Grinnell; eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and two on the way; five sisters, Barbara Anderson of Mt. Pleasant, Mary Margaret Feusner of Columbus, Ohio, Dorothy Blydenburg of Kansas City, Mo., Freida (and Bruce) Slawson of Waverly, and Joy (and Bill) Schwartz of Traverse City, Mich.; brother Wilbur (and Wanda) Mathes of Walls, Miss., a brother-in-law, Dan Lucas of Sigourney, a sister-in-law, Frances Cook of Belle Vista, Ark., and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sons, Kim and David, and a sister, Ruth Lucas.

A memorial in his name has been established for the United Methodist Church, Montezuma, or the Salvation Army.