

John Ebert, 81

May 18, 1919 – Nov. 11, 2000

HANCOCK – John William Ebert was born May 18, 1919, in Audubon, the son of William and Christina Thompson Ebert, and the oldest of seven children in the family. He attended school in Hancock, and graduated with the class of 1936. He attended Tabor College in Tabor, for one and a half years. In May of 1942, he was sworn into the U.S. Army. He graduated from Officers' Candidate School in February 1943 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Anti-Aircraft Artillery Corps. He served in the European Theatre during World War II. In the fall of 1945, John received a call from the Seventh Army Headquarters (General Patton's office), where he personally organized the staff that guarded the door to General Patton's hospital room. He later oversaw some of the preparations for the General's funeral.

He met his future wife, Irene, while serving in Germany. They were married in Mannheim, Germany, Valentine's Day of 1946. He was discharged from the Army with the rank of Major in the summer of 1946. They made their home in Hancock, and were the parents of two sons, Ken and Fred. He owned and operated Ebert Oil Company from 1947 until 1988, when he retired. He was very active in his community. He served for many years on the Hancock School Board, and later when Hancock and Avoca Schools merged he served on that board. He was a member of the Latter Day Saints Church in Atlantic. He also belonged to the Scheffler-Hildebrand American Legion Post in Hancock, the V.F.W., the Masonic Lodge and the East Pottawattamie Genealogical Society. He died Nov. 11, 2000, at the Methodist Hospital in Omaha, NE, at age 81 years, five months and 24 days.

John was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Irene, and his brother, William. He is survived by his two sons, Ken (Miden) of Hickman, NE and Fred (Cathy) of Missouri Valley; his sisters, Dorothy (Glenn) Gold of Hancock; Della Mae (Charles) Giwoyna of Omaha; Fay (Donald) Scheffler of Hancock; Ruth Moore of Santa Maria, CA and Wilma Burtoff of Fountain, CO; six granddaughters, Susan Ebert, Jenith Harvey, Cory Harvey, Jessica Ebert, Serena Ebert and Sarah Ebert; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Nov. 14, 2000, at the Knutson Funeral Home with Branch President Edward Conwell officiating. Casket bearers were Larry Jacobsen, Steve Guyer, Luke Claussen, Les Guyer, Cletus Gress and Don Voss. Burial was in the Oakhill Cemetery in Hancock.