

Robert Emken, 77 ✓

March 16, 1930 - April 19, 2007

AVOCA — Robert Henry Emken, son of John and Frieda Soll Emken, was born March 16, 1930, in Council Bluffs. He attended school in Aurora, NE and graduated with the class of 1948. After graduation, Robert joined the United States Navy.

After an honorable discharge, Robert married Mary Lou Deatherage March 23, 1951, at the Methodist Church in Oakland. To this union two children were born, Steve and Dianne. Shortly after their marriage, Robert was called from inactive duty to the Navy for approximately two more years. After his second discharge, he worked at various farm related jobs. In 1960, Robert started his own fertilizer and grain business, Hancock Fertilizer Company, which he owned and operated for the next thirty years. After selling the business he worked full time farming until semi-retirement in 2005. At this time, Robert became employed with Hancock Elevator driving truck until December 2006 when his health began to fail. He was a member of the Hancock Methodist Church and the American Legion Post No. 720 in Hancock. He died at his home, surrounded by his family, April 19, 2007, at age 77 years, one month and three days.

Robert is preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Mary Lou of Avoca; his children, Steve Emken of Hancock, and Dianne (Jeffery) Schueman of Avoca; one granddaughter, Lisa (Matt) McDermott of Ankeny; one great granddaughter, Isabelle; his brothers and sisters, Wilma Lund of Los Angeles, CA; Roger Emken (Ethel) of Fort Collins, CO; Joan (Roger) Reineke of Avoca; and Harold Emken (Jackie) of Bellevue, NE; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held April 21, 2007, at the Hancock United Methodist Church with Rev. Dr. Judy Flanegin officiating. Casket bearers were Leslie Guyer, Dennis Jacobsen, Harold Hoffmann, Sr., Jay Schuster, Kelly McMartin and Gene Olsen. Burial was held at Oak Hill Cemetery, Hancock. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Avoca in charge of arrangements.