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Robert Vander Meulen, 65

July 26, 1936 – Oct. 22, 2001

HARLAN – Robert Perry Vander Meulen was born July 26, 1936, in Sherwood, in Calhoun County, son of Myrick and Ethel Renfro Vander Meulen, and was one of seven children in the family.

He married Carol Lynn Moriarty May 22, 1956, at Rockwell City. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1956 – 1958 at Camp Pendleton, CA. After his time in the service, the family moved back to Iowa and lived at Rockwell City, Newton and Boone. For a short time he resided in Atchison, KS and from there moved to Walnut, where he spent 17 years. While in Walnut, he did custom dozer work and tree removal as Vander Meulen Construction Company. In 1983, he moved to Harlan where he spent the remainder of his life. While in Harlan, he worked for Western Engineering Company until his retirement in 1998. He died at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, Oct. 22, 2001, at age 65 years, two months and 26 days.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents; his sisters, Dorothy Anderson, Margaret Jantzen and his twin who died before birth. He is survived by his son, Michael (Marie) Vander Meulen of Westfield; his daughters, Teresa (Jim) Sturtevant of Warsaw, MO; Jayne (Kelly) Knight of Atlantic; his brothers, Art Vander Meulen of Council Bluffs, James H. Johnson (Bea) of Milwaukee, WI; his sisters, Ruth Brown of Council Bluffs; Betty Rassmussen (Dean) of Council Bluffs; seven grandchildren; five great grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Oct. 24, 2001, at the Knutson Funeral Home with Mr. Wayne Paulsen officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery with military graveside rites conducted by the Avoca American Legion Post #227. Honorary casket bearers were Justin Fell, Jessie Fell, Joanna Vander Meulen and Michael Vander Meulen. Casket bearers were Michael Vander Meulen, Kelly Knight, Jim Sturtevant, Jennifer Gardner, Tracey Gardner and Joey Schroll.