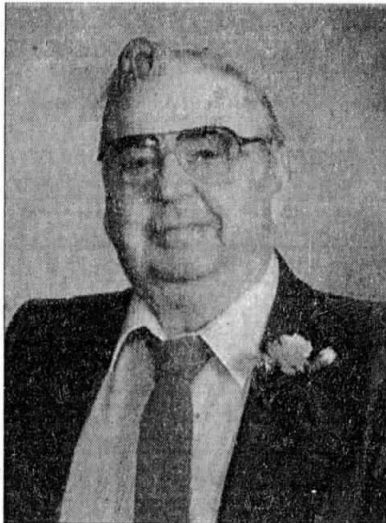


Lavern "Shorty" Bruck, 89

Sept. 13, 1918 - April 2, 2008

MANNING — Lavern J. "Shorty" Bruck was born on September 13, 1918, to Charles and Margaret (Blum) Bruck in Earling, IA. He was baptized, confirmed, and made his communion at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. He attended St. Joseph's Catholic School in Earling before helping his father on the farm. Lavern also worked as a hired hand for various area farmers until he enlisted in the United States Army. During his time in the military, Shorty served as a cook in the southwest Pacific, Australia, and the Philippines with the 911th Signal Company. After forty-two months overseas, he received his honorable discharge from the service and returned to marry the girl he had met at church during Lent right before he left for the service.



Shorty and Betty Nollen were married on February 11, 1946, and had four children: Janet, Mary, Bruce, and Jill. After returning home, Shorty began to farm for himself beginning in Earling, then Defiance, and finally moving to the farm in Irwin where he farmed for thirty-eight years. After his retirement, Shorty and Betty lived on the farm another fourteen years until selling it in August of 2007, and moving to Manning, IA. Shorty was a family man, taking pride in his children and grandchildren. He especially loved being in his wife's company and rarely missed an opportunity to take her dancing. He belonged to the Farm Bureau and was active with their activities. He was admitted to the Manning Regional Healthcare Center and it was there that he died on April 2, 2008, having attained the age of eighty-nine years, six months, and twenty days.

Shorty was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Leonard Bruck, Alfred Bruck, and Richard Bruck, and one grandson, Robert Handlos. He is survived by his wife of sixty-two years, Betty Bruck of Manning, IA; his children: Janet and her husband Gerald Handlos of Georgetown, TX, Mary and her husband Tom Gaskill of Tucson, AZ, Bruce Bruck and his wife Donna of Bloomington, MN, and Jill and her husband Gary Sebern of Denison, IA; ten grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren; his brother Gerald Bruck and his wife Velma of Earling, IA; his sister Mary Ann Schwery of Panama, IA; nieces and nephews; other family members and many friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, April 5, 2008, with Rev. Tom Coenen celebrating the 11:00 AM service at St. Peter's

Pauley

Catholic Church in Defiance, IA. Honorary casket bearer was Jim Handlos. Serving as casket bearers were Chris Handlos, Reggie Graeve, Jason Gaskill, Jessie Sebern, Bailey Bruck, Bryce Bruck, Scott Gaskill, and Beth Upton. Military Rites were held at Oak Hill Cemetery in Irwin, IA by the Defiance and Westphalia Post No. 707.

Jones

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