

Cavender R. Gaer, 86

April 10, 1914 - June 6, 2000 ✓

HARLAN – Cavender Rexford Gaer was born April 30, 1914, to Isabell (Hansen) and Cavender Gaer in Harlan. During the depression, he was forced to abandon his education at Harlan High School to assist his family. He placed such a high regard on education that he later returned to school and graduated in 1937 at age 23.

He married Loretta Peerman April 28, 1942. The couple made their home in Harlan, where they operated a hamburger shop until he entered the United States Army in September of 1942. Following his discharge from the army in 1945, they moved to Cumberland, where he was a carpenter and cabinet maker. A son, Douglas, was born to this union while they made their home in Cumberland. In 1966, they moved to Des Moines, where he was employed by Piggott, Inc. In 1982, Cavender and Loretta moved to Spirit Lake, to spend their retirement years. They were making plans to return to the Harlan community when Loretta died, leaving Cavender to make the move by himself in 1992. He was a member of the American Legion Donald Lee Post No. 320 and the Radium Lodge No. 629 Masons of Cumberland. He was also a member of the Church of Christ of Harlan. He died June 6, 2000, at Jennie Edmundson Memorial Hospital in Co. Bluffs, at age 86 years, one month and seven days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Loretta in 1992; sister, Clementine Wilson; and brothers, Adolph, Cortland and Russell Gaer. He is survived by his son, Douglas Gaer (Dixie) of Lincoln, NE; four grandchildren; two great grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held June 9, 2000, at Pauley Funeral Home with Minister Roy North officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Don Kloewer honorary casket bearer. Casket bearers were Mike Dotzler, Denny Kloewer, Rick Kloewer, Delbert Lehan, Noah Nielsen and John Smalley.

