

Ronald Hemminger, 81

Aug. 27, 1933 - Feb. 18, 2015

OMAHA, NE — Ronald Delane Hemminger was born on August 27 1933, in Harlan, to John and Anna (Wetzel) Hemminger. He graduated from Harlan High School and earned a football scholarship to Simpson College in Indianola. He graduated with a math degree, but not before meeting on campus the love of his life, Jane LaVon Hansen of Nevada, IA. Before he shipped out to the Army upon graduation, Ron told Jane he would see her again. She said, "Yeah, right" or some such college-age term of disbelief. But they began a relationship of letter writing across the Atlantic Ocean when Ron was stationed in France; on one of his few furloughs Ron asked Jane to be his wife. Besides planning their wedding, Jane secured teaching positions for both of them in West Branch.

Ron came home from service shortly before the wedding on August 17, 1958, and they started teaching in September. Ron taught high school math and coached football. He also started selling Vita-Craft cookware door-to-door, as salesmen did in those days. This is where he found his true vocation—sales.

Selling Vita-Craft cookware took him and his growing family to Cedar Rapids, Lincoln, NE, and Omaha. All this selling and buying of homes gave Ron his specialization in sales—real estate. In 1976 he got his Real Estate license, combining his love of people with his talent for numbers. Ron always made sure he knew the name of every person he encountered, and he would always try to remember each check-out person, waitress, or receptionist. Ron's success in real estate gave him time to pursue his beloved hobbies of collecting coins and working in stained glass and leather. But his attention and devotion were never far from his daughters, grandchildren, siblings, and especially, Jane. His sister, Charlene, put it best when she said she always admired the look Ron would give Jane—the smile and the sparkle in both their eyes, attesting to true love.

Ron was preceded in death by wife of 56 years, Jane L. Hemminger; parents, John and Anna Hemminger. He is survived by 3 daughters and 4 grandchildren: Debora Strickland (Jim) and children Jimmy and Katie, Barbara Beyke and children Charlie and Jack, Carol Kresl (John); sisters, Donna Graham (Leslie) and Charlene Johns (Tom); brother, John Hemminger (Svetlana); nieces and nephews.

The family received friends Sunday, February 22, 2015 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the West Center Chapel of Heafey Hoffmann Dworak Cutler Mortuaries in Omaha. Services were held Monday, February 23, 2105 at 10:30 a.m. at Morning Star Lutheran Church, 331 S. 85 Ave. in Omaha. Interment was in Forest Lawn Memorial Park. Memorials may be made to United Way of the Midlands.

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