

Clifford Johnson, 98

Sept. 22, 1910 - Aug. 16, 2009

COUNCIL BLUFFS — J. Clifford Johnson, age 98, of Council Bluffs, died August 16, 2009, at his daughter's home in Harlan. Cliff was an active member of the community. Born on a farm near Elk Horn, Clifford attended Elk Horn High School and graduated in 1928. He graduated from Iowa State University in 1932. His entire career was dedicated to serving Pottawattamie County and surrounding areas. He retired in 1976 as County Extension Director of West Pottawattamie County after 35 years of service. Prior to that he had been an extension agent in Ringgold County. His areas of education included livestock, crops, soil conservation, 4-H Clubs and civic activities.

Clifford had a long career in 4-H and was named to the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame in 2004. In 2003 he was named to the Iowa Hereford Breeders Association Hall of Fame, a select group of individuals who have made significant contributions to the Hereford breed in the state. He also received a Hall of Fame award in 1977 from the Council Bluffs Bowling Association and the Hall of Fame Award in 1994 from Westfair. His most recent awards were the Arts and Humanities Heritage Award from Mercy Hospital in 2005; the Timmy Award received in July of 2009 in recognition for long-standing involvement and significant contribution to the success of the Westfair Livestock Sale; and the Nonpareil Grampy of the Year Award in February of 2009. Other organizations in which he was actively involved include the Iowa Farm Bureau, Iowa and American Hereford Cattle Association, Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation, Rotary Club, Service Corps of Retired Executives, Chamber of Commerce, Metropolitan Area Planning Board, Adult Education Board, and the city's Community Development Committee.

One of his notable professional and civic achievements was serving as president of the American Red Cross Iowa Chapter board of directors during the Council Bluffs flood of 1952. Among the many services he provided during the flood was calling in Iowa State specialists, both to help area farmers bring back crops and livestock production and to give advice on home and farm repairs.

He also wrote weekly news columns for the Council Bluffs Nonpareil and had daily news broadcasts on radio station KRCB. Other activities worthy of note: President of the Association of Iowa Fairs; Chairman of the Rural Cancer Fund Drive in southwestern Iowa; Explorer/Advisor for Council Bluffs Boy Scouts; membership team of Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben; Past President of Iowa Livestock Judges Association.

Clifford was well-versed in all things agricultural, from crops to cattle, but as a farm boy who married a city girl, he also knew taps and toe shoes. Clifford's wife, Genevieve, was a dance instructor, as are many of his daughters and granddaughters. He was an ardent supporter of his talented family, emceeding countless recitals and performances. He once laughingly declared, "Some of my life has been centered around dance recitals...from farming to dancing. What fun it has been!"

Clifford was preceded in death by his wife, Genevieve Johnson; parents, L.W. and Mary Johnson of Elk Horn; brother, Harvey Johnson of Elk Horn; two sisters, Una Farley of Elk Horn and Ruby Sindt of Lincoln, NE. Cliff is survived by two daughters: Joyce Talty and husband Emmett of Council Bluffs, Janice Tiarks and husband Fritz of Harlan; one son, Jim Johnson and wife Gayla of Council Bluffs; 15 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews; sister-in-law, Charlotte Moore and husband Ken of California; and brother-in-law, Chuck Mitchell of



Florida.

Services were held Friday, August 21, 2009, at 11 a.m. at Cutler O'Neill Chapel, with interment at Memorial Park Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Iowa Western Foundation or Iowa 4-H Foundation. The family received friends Thursday, August 20, 2009, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Cutler-O'Neill Chapel in Council Bluffs.

Cutler-O'Neill

MEYER-WOODRING

Funeral Home & Crematory

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