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## Vernon Paasch, 83

*July 23, 1920 - March 14, 2004*

**WALNUT** – Vernon LeRoy Paasch, son of August and Paulena Reimer Paasch, was born July 23, 1920, on a farm east of Walnut, and was one of five children in the family. In 1936, the family moved to a farm north of Walnut and while living there, Vernon attended school in Walnut and graduated with the class of 1937. After high school, he attended art school for a few months before returning home to work on the farm. June 30, 1944, he entered the United States Navy and served his country honorably during World War II in the Asiatic Pacific and Philippine Theatres until his discharge April 25, 1946.

Vernon married Anna Kock Aug. 20, 1950, in Walnut. They have lived in the Walnut area all of their married life. He was confirmed in 1935 in the Peace United Church of Christ and has served on the church board several times as well as on the Peace Haven Board. He was a member of the Walnut Fire Department, served on the ambulance crew for many years and was a member of the Walnut American Legion Post #422. He served as a Layton Township Trustee and was a member of the Atlantic Elks Lodge. He retired from farming in 1968 and then worked as a crop hail adjuster for 20 years. He spent many hours in both the Walnut Creek Historical Museum and Country School House. He helped make them what they are today and gave many lectures to tour groups in both buildings telling about their history and contents. In 1996, he was honored as the Grand Marshall of the Quasiquicentennial Parade and in 1998 he and Anna were given the Lifetime Achievement Award. He died March 14, 2004, at Salem Lutheran Home in Elk Horn, where he had been residing since December of 2003, at 83 years, seven months and 22 days.

Vernon was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Ora and Balden; and two sisters, Etta Belle Clayton and Annie Dory. He is survived by his wife, Anna of Elk Horn; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 19, 2004, at the Peace United Church of Christ in Walnut, with Pastor David O'Rourke and Pastor Orris Drake officiating. Burial was in the Layton Township Cemetery, Walnut. Casket bearers were John Clayton, Philip Clayton, Ray McLaughlin, Milton Mueller, George Mertz and Bob Andersen. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.