

Emmert Petersen, 84

Oct. 30, 1919 - Oct. 30, 2003

AUDUBON – Emmert Jens Petersen, the son of Soren Pete and Mathilda Christensen Petersen, was born Oct. 30, 1919, at his parents' home south of Hamlin. Emmert was baptized and confirmed at the Hamlin Lutheran Church. He attended rural schools near Hamlin and then was employed as a hired man for several area farmers.

Aug. 31, 1941, he married Ruth Marie Rasmussen at the Hamlin Lutheran Church. They farmed northwest of Audubon for a short time and then farmed north of Ross. Feb. 13, 1945, he was inducted into the U.S. Army. During his tour of duty, he served in the Philippines and Hawaiian Islands where he supervised and drove semitrailer trucks hauling heavy equipment. He was honorably discharged June 17, 1946, and then purchased a farm east of Hamlin. They farmed there for 10 years and then purchased a meat locker in Harlan. Later, they also purchased the lockers in Elk Horn and Avoca. In 1971, they sold the lockers and purchased land around Lake Panorama in Panora. Emmert built homes and Ruth did the interior decorating until they retired. Ruth died Dec. 27, 2001. Emmert lived in Audubon for a short time and then moved to Harlan in June of 2001. He was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, and a member of the Gideons. He was an active participant in Habitat for Humanity projects and was a member of the Promise Keepers. He served on many church boards and committees. He died Oct. 30, 2003, on his 84th birthday at the Homeward Family Hospice Israel House in Ames.

Preceding him in death, in addition to his wife, were his parents; his sister, Freda, and husband, Hans Sorensen; and his brother, Ernest K.C., and wife, Carrie Petersen; his brothers-in-law and sister-in-law, Sophus Jensen, Elsie and husband, Harold Brown, and Robert Preston. Survivors include his children, Elaine (Phil) Miller of Harlan; Linda (Richard) Sprague of Polk city; Clinton (Janet) Petersen of Ames; his grandchildren, Jill Miller, Philip Miller (Sharon), all of Missouri Valley; Timothy Miller (Kelli) of Fremont, NE; Steven Sprague (Susan) of Ankeny; Diane (Michael) Laster of Rock Island, IL; Kristina (Keith) Weggen of Urbandale; Katie Petersen of Ames; his great grandchildren, Chloe Miller of Missouri Valley; Ashton Weyer, Danielle Weyer and Derec Weyer, all of Fremont, NE; Austin Laster and Brandon Laster, both of Rock Island, IL; Gabriel Weggen of Urbandale; his sister, Gladys Jensen of Harlan; his sisters-in-law, Norma Smith of Pella; Esther Preston of Des Moines; and Donis (Maurice) Knutsen of Ankeny; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Nov. 1, 2003, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Audubon, with Pastor Heather Ploen officiating. Burial was in Maple Grove Cemetery in Audubon. Casket bearers were Jill Miller, Philip Miller, II, Timothy Miller, Steven Sprague, Diane Laster, Kristina Weggen and Katie Petersen. Kessler Funeral Home in Audubon, in charge of arrangements.