

## Gene West, 72

*Dec. 6, 1932 - Sept. 18, 2005*



**HARLAN** — Eugene H. "Gene" West, son of Verne and Viola Pauley West, was born Dec. 6, 1932, in Shelby County. He attended Harlan Community Schools and was a member of the graduating class of 1951. Gene joined the United States Navy March 15, 1953. He was baptized at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center and was a veteran of the Korean Conflict where he served aboard the USS Lansing. After receiving his honorable discharge Feb. 4, 1955, he returned to Harlan.

March 12, 1955, Gene married Caryl Janice Heilesen in Harlan. Four children were born to this union, Jennifer, Janice, James, and Julie. After their marriage, the family made their home in Harlan. He worked for area grocery stores, and Harlan Clothing, before becoming employed at Variety Distributors, Inc. in Harlan in 1960. He became General Manager in 1962 until his retirement in 1985. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Harlan. Gene died Sept. 18, 2005, at Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha, NE at age 72 years, three months, and 16 days.

In addition to his parents, Gene was preceded in death by his daughter, Julie. Survivors include his wife, Caryl of Harlan; his children, Jennifer (Peter) Dyer and their sons, Matthew and Benjamin of Hoffman Estates, IL; Janice (Bob) Powers and their son, Hunter, of Poquoson, VA; James West (Deb) and their daughters, Lauren and Allison, and son, Jacob, of Omaha, NE; his stepbrothers, Robert West, Ronald West, Richard West and his stepsister, Elaine Schramm; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Sept. 22, 2005, at Pauley Jones Funeral Home with Rev. Dave Swinton officiating. Military rites were conducted in the Harlan Cemetery by the American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 and the Shelby County VFW Post No. 941 with Lee Nelson, Andy Rasmussen, Bob Hansen, Brad Lawyer, John Assman and George Kintner honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Bob Powers, Bob Ahrenholtz, Carl Nielsen, Bert Hillers, Martin Zaccone and Peter Dyer.