

Rudy "Jute" Willett, Jr., 88

July 11, 1922 - Jan. 6, 2011

AVOCA - Rudy George Willett, Jr., son of Rudolph and Mary (Lippold) Willett, was born on July 11, 1922 in Brooklyn, IA. Rudy, Jr. entered into the United States Army in 1942 during WWII until his honorable discharge on January 24, 1946.

Rudy married Helen Wickstrom on March 11, 1966 in St. Cloud, MN. They raised one son together, Donald Wickstrom. Rudy loved farming. When Don was young, the three of them would take trips in the straight truck to drop off cattle in Omaha, if the line of trucks was long enough, they would consider themselves lucky to get to stop and get something to eat - perhaps a good prime rib or steak. Rudy was a kind and generous man, and what some may call a "collector," he was a good mechanic and enjoyed taking anything he could and get it working again. He liked to shoot guns, although he was not a hunter, he enjoyed aiming at various targets. A special time for Rudy was getting together with his unit from the service, to tell stories and share memories, until about 1972. Helen died in 1980 after a short battle with breast cancer.

Rudy married Eleanor Edison in June of 1981. Eleanor was from Milaca, MN and that is where the couple made their home for a few years until Eleanor's death in 2007. Rudy liked coming back to Avoca to help his nephew Dean with farming, especially during harvest season. He moved back to Avoca and entered the Avoca Nursing and Rehab Center in 2009. Rudy died at Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan on January 6, 2011 having attained the age of eighty-eight years, five months and twenty-six days.

Rudy was preceded in death by his parents, his wives Helen and Eleanor, and his brothers Maynard and Daniel. He is survived by his step-son Donald Wickstrom and his wife Donna of San Diego, CA; his grandchildren; sisters-in-law Bonnie Willett and Eleanor Willett, both of Avoca; nieces and nephews; other relatives and friends.

Pastor Dennis Reich officiated the 10:30 AM funeral service at Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Avoca on Monday, January 10, 2011. Military Rites were conducted by the Avoca American Legion Fred Funston Post Number 227. Dean Willett, Dave Theis, Paul Wickstrom, Stan Theis, Andrew Willett, Douglas Willett and Brent Willett served as casket bearers.

*Pauley
L. Jones*

FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY
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