

## Keith Allen, 83

*June 13, 1918 - June 13, 2001*

**AVOCA** - Keith Allen was born June 13, 1918, to Doris (Hickman) and Homer Allen at Ridgeway, MO. He attended grade school and high school in Ridgeway and Quitman, MO. During his senior year in high school, Keith and his family moved to Harlan, where he completed his remaining two months of schooling and graduated from Harlan High School. Following his graduation, he assisted his father on the family farm for several years.

In December 1940, he married Joy Myer. To this union, two children were born. The couple resided in Denver, CO, where he was employed at an ammunition manufacturing company. In November of 1942, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corp., and served his country during World War II until October 1945, when he was honorably discharged. Following the war, they relocated to Hatfield, MO, where they farmed for several years. He then moved to Sheridan, WY, and worked on ranches in the area. While there, he joined the B.O.P. Elks Lodge No. 520 remaining a member until his death. In early 1960, he returned to Shelby County.

Sept. 3, 1960, he married Nancy Graves at the Methodist Church parsonage in Harlan. To this union, two children were born. The couple farmed south of Corley, until 1980 when he retired. Following retirement, Nancy and Keith continued to make their home on the farm. Keith was a member of the United Methodist Church in Harlan and the Shelby County Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 941. He died June 13, 2001, exactly 83 years to the date of his birth, at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Loree Allen. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Allen of Avoca; his children, Carolyn Allen of Council Bluffs; Kathy (Jerry) Elminger of Bright, IN; Marcie Cave of Harlan and Kevin Allen of Omaha, NE; six grandchildren; five great grandchildren; brother, Ted Allen (Eleanor) of Harlan; mother-in-law, Elsie Graves of Harlan; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held June 16, 2001, at Pauley Funeral Home with Rev. Paul Wilcox officiating. Military rites were conducted in the Harlan Cemetery by Shelby County Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 941 and American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 of Harlan, with Dwain Boeck, Ron Doonan, Verle Doonan, LaVerne Koppold, Ed Roos, Eldon Erickson, Kenny Kimmen and Paul Neilsen casket bearers.