

## Howard Henry Ahrenholtz, 89

Oct. 21, 1927 - Nov. 29, 2016

**DENISON** – Howard Henry Ahrenholtz was born Oct. 21, 1927, the son of Louis and Irene Quathamer Ahrenholtz.

Howard was born on a farm near Manilla. He attended the Defiance Public School and graduated in 1944, at the age of 16. Upon the completion of his education he purchased his first tractor, a John Deere A, and began farming with his brothers and parents.



Howard met Lois Lucille Christiansen at the Denison Roller Skating Rink and they were married March 7, 1948. The couple settled on a farm near Defiance. They were blessed with five children; Russell, Randall, Eugene, Julia and Joni. Howard enjoyed family gatherings, hosting family reunions, and traveling with his wife Lois. Howard and his brothers had a unique ability to harmonize and they sang for many church events throughout the years. Howard served as an elder of Zion Lutheran Church of Denison.

Howard maintained a strong interest in new ideas and research in agriculture. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to be involved in custom harvesting of wheat and barley, establishing hog confinements, and raising breeding stock. In the late 1970's Howard, Russell and Randall launched the Ahrenholtz Seed Company, specializing in soybean and corn seed genetics. Howard and his son Randall remained passionate about the Ahrenholtz Seed operation throughout the rest of Howard's life.

Survivors include: three sons: Russell and his wife, Marcia; Randall and his wife, Lisa; Eugene and his wife, Sandy; one daughter, Joni Ahrenholtz; fifteen grandchildren: Christopher, Matthew, Luke, Zachary, Jessica, Justin, Sara, Brooke, Travis, Amber, Brandon, Briana, Tyler, Devon, and Arielle; eleven great-grandchildren: Emma, Isabella, Cade, Alicia, Ava, Dylan, Zane, Madelyn, Gianna, Raelynn and Amya; one sister, Betty Lou; two brothers; William and his wife, Louise; and Richard; many other relatives and friends.

Howard died Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2016, at the age of 89.

Howard is preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Lois; one daughter, Julia Rosa; two brothers, Harry and Harold; and one sister, Aletha.

Funeral services were held Dec. 5, 2016, at Zion Lutheran Church in Denison. Rev. Kurt Kaiser officiated the service and graveside rites held at Crawford Heights Memory Gardens in Denison. Organist Karen Kahl provided accompaniment for congregational hymns "How Great Thou Art," "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," "Beautiful Savior" and "Here I Am Lord." Serving as pallbearers were Christopher Ahrenholtz, Brooke Baumgardner, Matthew Ahrenholtz, Brandon Ahrenholtz, Zachary Ahrenholtz, Travis Ahrenholtz, Devon Henscheid, Arielle Henscheid, Justin Ahrenholtz, Luke Ahrenholtz, Tyler Henscheid, Amber Francis, Jessica Jones, Briana Wyatt and Sara York.

The Huebner Funeral Home in Denison was in charge of arrangements.

## HUEBNER FUNERAL HOME

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