

Keith Blankenship, 84

July 31, 1927 - Aug. 15, 2011

HARLAN — Keith William Blankenship was born on July 31, 1927 in Panama, NE, to Roy and Rachel (Bolin) Blankenship. He was baptized at United Brother Methodist Church in Panama. On March 27, 1945, Keith enlisted in the United States Navy. He completed basic training in Great Lakes, IL before going to San Diego, CA, and on to the Asian Pacific. He was honorably discharged on July 8, 1946. After his military service, he was a florist, a baker, a cook, a farmer, and a mechanic owning a filling station before he became a journeyman and went to work for the Omaha Public Power District. His hard work and strong work ethic made him a good



boss and a heck of a foreman. He retired from OPPD after forty years as an electrician. Keith was a member of the Electricians' Union and the Blair Eagles. He was a great handyman, helping anyone he could and he could do just about anything. He enjoyed fishing, Husker football, and wood working. He was an excellent swimmer. In fact, while in the military, he swam from his boat to another boat to see his brother. Unfortunately, he was considered AWOL and ended up with many days of KP duty as a result. He was a devoted husband to Neva until her death in 1998 and tremendously loyal to his friends. Keith died at his home on Monday, August 15, 2011, having attained the age of eighty-four years and fifteen days.

Keith was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Neva, and his brothers Ed and Russell. He is survived by his daughter Linda and her husband Tom Duncan of LeMars; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brother Duane Blankenship of Pender, NE; sisters Ione "Penny" Erickson of Golden, CO, and Loma and her husband Bill Pilant of Bennington, NE; two step-sons Mark and Todd Anderson and their families; friends Kathy Conety of Decatur, NE, Pat Schmidt of Harlan, Tom and Robin Powers of rural Harlan, Mick and Angie Johnston and family of Harlan; other family members and friends.

Pastor Darwin Moore officiated the 11:00 a.m. funeral service on Friday, August 19, 2011 at Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Harlan. Serving as casket bearers were Mick Johnston, Scott Gallagher, Dirk Johnston, Tom Wilbanks, Bob Gallagher, and Tom Powers. Military Rites were conducted by Shelby County VFW Post No. 941 and Harlan American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 at the Harlan Cemetery.

*Pauley
Jones*

FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY
(712) 755-3135 • (800) 831-6805
www.pauleyjones.com
Baldwin at 9th, Harlan, IA
Also in Avoca & Walnut