

Kenneth Dwight Copeland, 75

April 18, 1923 - Oct. 27, 1998

MILLS, NE - Kenneth Copeland was born April 18, 1923, at Harlan, to Dwight and Rosetta (Davison) Copeland. The family had to move to several different locations when Kenneth was a young lad due to the health of his father. Kenneth was 7 years old when his father died and he and his mother and brother, Wayne, returned to Harlan where he completed his schooling. He began driving a truck as a young man until he enlisted in military service during WW II. He served in the Army Air Corps for 30 months in England and when he was discharged he returned to Co. Bluffs. In 1952, he was involved in an accident which left him paralyzed from the waist down and after a year in Hines, VA Hospital in Chicago, he was in a wheelchair for the remainder of his life. This required a change of careers and he began working for the Sheriff's office in Douglas County, NE, as an identification officer.

He married Evelyn Polley Menard Aug. 28, 1968, at Elk Point, SD, and they lived for a time at Ft. Calhoun, NE. In the early 1970's, he took a position as staff instructor at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Center in Grand Island and the couple moved there until his retirement in 1980. They found a place in Keya Paha County which was close to where his grandfather had settled in the early days of that county. They established their retirement home in the Mills community where he set up a fix-it shop. He became a handyman for the neighbors. He was baptized at and a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Burton and was faithful in service to that congregation. For the past four years he had been successfully battling cancer, but the past three months his health declined. He died Oct. 27, 1998, at age 75 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Wayne. Surviving him is his wife, Evelyn of Mills, NE; stepsons, Kenneth Menard (Gaile) of Grand Island, NE; Keith Menard and friend, Shirley Regan of Grand Island, NE; grandson, Trevor Ray Anderson (Jodi) of Wood River, NE; granddaughter, Kelsey Lee Menard of Tecumseh, NE; a nephew, Michael Copeland (Elaine) of Leander, TX, and their four children, Jessica, Steven, Brandon and Nancy Jo, and a niece, Christine Copeland Moore (Roger) and their four children, Heather and Erick Eastling and Lorelei and Michael Moore of Northwood, ND.