

Donald Davis, 79

Dec. 28, 1927 - Nov. 13, 2006

HARLAN — Donald Ray Davis "Don" was born Dec. 28, 1927, to Howard and Bessie (Benson) Davis of Kanawha. He was baptized at the Chapin Methodist Church and attended school in Kanawha. After his schooling, he spent two years on active duty in the United States Navy and continued in the Naval Reserves for an additional four years. He obtained his honorable discharge Dec. 12, 1952. After his discharge from the service, he was a milk hauler for 18 years with the Hampton Creamery, Belmond Dairy and later at the Harlan Creamery, as well as working as a manager at the Wells Blue Bunny plant. Don and Arlene started D & A Laundry in 1978 until their retirement in 1994.

Even after his retirement, he continued to be hard-working, becoming a part-time employee with his daughter, Barb, at Touch of Class in Harlan.

Don was married Dec. 22, 1950 to Arlene Slining of Belmond. Seven children were born to this union, Dixie, Barb, Jerry, John, Sandy, Debbie, and Jeff. He was admitted to Myrtue Medical Center Nov. 10 and died there Nov. 13, 2006.

In addition to his parents, Don was preceded in death by his wife of 52 years, Arlene; four infant brothers; his sister Marge; one grandson, Justin; and one son-in-law, Bruce Markkula. He is survived by seven children, Dixie (Sonny) Goans of Kirkman; Barb (Kim) Swanson of Harlan; Jerry (Leah) Davis of Harlan; John (Judy) Davis of Harlan; Sandy Markkula of Harlan; Debbie Davis of McPherson, KS; and Jeff Davis of Creston; 16 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; one brother, Bob (Carol) Davis in Arizona; three sisters, Hilda Nolte of Stewartville, MN; Darlene Little of Hampton; and Janis Sorensen of Harlan; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral Services were held Nov. 16, 2006, at Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Harlan with Rev. Al Hazelton officiating. Honorary casket bearers were Gene Nielsen, Billy Scheffler, Jim Elder, Richard Carl and Omer Scheffler with Joey Petsche, Brad McQueen, Mike Wohlhutter, Roger Christensen, Chris Goans and James Boardman casket bearers. Military rites were by the Shelby County VFW Post No. 841, and the Harlan American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery.

