

Joseph Davis II, 85

June 24, 1915 – Jan. 1, 2001

AVOCA – Joseph W. Davis II was born in Shelby County, June 24, 1915, the son of Joseph W. and Olga Frost Davis. When he was 12 years old, the family moved to Avoca. He graduated from high school in 1933, and from Iowa State University in 1937. He enlisted in the army in 1941, and was stationed at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He also served in the North African and European Theaters of Operation. He entered the army as an enlisted man and attended Officer Candidates School completing his term of duty as a captain.

He married Ruth Gallentine Sept. 25, 1942, in Petersburg, VA. They were the parents of two children, Joseph W. III and Mary Ellen. Joe and the Davis family were involved in the farming and banking business in the Avoca community for many years. He was a Paul Harris Fellow with the Rotary organization and attended many of the Rotary International Conventions held worldwide. He is a former commander of Legion Post #227, and for 39 years served as its service officer. Also during his lifetime, he served on many civic projects. He helped establish the Avoca Day Care Center, was active in the Republican Party, served as Pottawattamie County Chairman, and as a Precinct Chairman. He was named the recipient of the "1985 Economic Development Award" presented by the Avoca Business and Professional Association. In 1988, he was named the Grand Marshal for the Avoca Fourth of July parade. He was an elder in the United Church of Avoca, serving on the session several times and as long as his health permitted he was an active member of the Avoca Rotary Club and the Fred Funston Post #227 of Avoca. He died Jan. 1, 2001, at the Avoca Nursing and Rehab Center at age 85 years, six months and eight days.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his daughter, Mary Ellen Davis Carroll; and a brother, Wilson. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, of Avoca; his son, Joseph W. Davis III; and two grandsons, James and John, all of Omaha, NE; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Jan. 3, 2001, at the United Church of Avoca with Orris Drake officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery with military graveside rites by the Fred Funston Post #227. Honorary casket bearers were Jack Frost, Ronald Johnson, Wallace Ensley, Richard Dea, Earl Sievers and Herman Harvey. Casket bearers were Ronald Eggerss, Larry Petersen, Tom True, Everette Carroll, Richard W. Gallentine and John Gallentine. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.