

## Vernen "Ernie" Hogeland, 85

Nov. 7, 1924 - Sept. 17, 2010

**AVOCA** — Vernen "Ernie" Hogeland, son of John Allen and Anna Caroline (Petersen) Hogeland was born on November 7, 1924 on a farm near Bloomington, NE to what would become a family of five girls and five boys. Ernie graduated from Franklin High School with the class of 1941. Upon his discharge from the U.S. Army in January, 1946, he moved to Avoca to work for his uncle, E.S. Petersen, at Iowa Nebraska Transportation Co., Inc., holding jobs as bookkeeper, dispatcher and, later, Vice-President of Operations. Ernie stayed in the motor freight business until 1976.

In 1947, Ernie met Bette Fairchild at a dance in Harlan, and on November 22, 1948, they were united in marriage at Bethel Baptist Church in Harlan, in a double ceremony with Bette's



sister Bonnie and her husband, Elmer Mandelkow. Bette and Ernie raised five children during their marriage: Rodney, Roxanne, Rojeane, Rhonda and Robin. Ernie began his career with the United States Postal Service in 1959 as a rural mail carrier in Avoca. He was appointed Postmaster in 1975, and retired on December 30, 1988. Ernie joined the Avoca Volunteer Fire Department in 1957, and served for 39 years, holding the offices of secretary, treasurer, and, for 10 years, chief. He also served as trustee of the Avoca Water Works for 27 years. Ernie belonged to the National Association of Postmasters of the United States, League of Postmasters, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, was a charter member of the Avoca Golf Course, and was an active member of the United Church of Avoca. He enjoyed golfing, bowling, woodworking and spending time with his children and grandchildren. Ernie passed away at Myrtue Medical Center on Friday, September 17, 2010 having attained the age of eighty-five years, ten months, and ten days.

Ernie was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Bette, and six siblings: Ruby Thaete, Roy Hogeland, Dorothy Waggoner, John Hogeland, Amy Peterson and Robert Hogeland. He is survived by his children: Rodney and wife Shirley Hogeland of Omaha, NE, Roxanne Hester and husband Jim of Avoca, Rojeane Martin and husband Bruce of Hancock, Rhonda Ryan and husband Jim of Lincoln, NE, and Robin Rittenberger and husband Jim of Gretna, NE; grandchildren: Robert III, Rebecca, Suzanne, Stacey, Steven, Jillian, Kimberly, Woody and Tate; sisters Bertha Waggoner of Reno, NV and Gladys Meyer of Alma, NE; brother Preston Hogeland and wife Dee of Ft. Collins, CO; sister-in-law Martha Hogeland of Alma, NE, many other relatives and friends.

Pastor Nancy Ross-Hullinger officiated the 10:30 a.m. funeral service on Wednesday, September 22, 2010 at United Church of Avoca.

*Pauley*

Military Rites were held by the Avoca American Legion Post No. 227 at Graceland Cemetery in Avoca. Honorary casket bearers were Bob Brendle, Rex Davis, Gerrit Feekes, Terry Peters, Woody Woodruff and Floyd Rhodes. Serving as casket bearers were Jim Hester, Steve Hester, Jim Rittenberger, Tate Rittenberger, Woody Rittenberger, Bruce Martin and Jim Ryan.

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