

Jack Knudsen, 80 ✓

Dec. 20, 1925 - May 11, 2006

HARLAN — Jack Russel Knudsen, son of Peter and Olga (Jacobsen) Knudsen, was born Dec. 20, 1925, in Harlan. He attended school in Harlan graduating with the class of 1944. Following his education, Jack followed his uncle and older brother into the service and enlisted into the United States Navy. He served in the Pacific during World War II near Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the LSM479 Transport Ship. He was honorably discharged June 19, 1946, in Minneapolis, MN.

Oct. 10, 1948, Jack married Grace Ann Evans at the United Methodist Church in Harlan. The morning of his wedding, he was baptized at church. Two children were born to this union, Sheri and Stan. After their marriage, the couple moved to Des Moines. They returned to Harlan in 1950, where Jack helped run Knudsen Produce and drove a cream and egg route. To date, he still knew every customer from that route. In 1957, he was employed with the USDA as an egg inspector. In 1959, he began his insurance career with New York Life, where he was still a representative to date. Jack loved wood working and made eight grandfather's clocks - - some of which were gifts for his children and grandchildren. He built both houses he and Grace Ann have lived in while in Harlan. He remodeled parts of their current home with his son. He was a longtime member of the United Methodist Church in Harlan. He died May 11, 2006, at Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha, NE, at age 80 years, four months and 22 days.

In addition to his parents, Jack was preceded in death by his brothers and sister, Marvin and Wilmer Knudsen and Agnes Shaffer. Survivors include his wife, Grace Ann of Harlan; his children, Sheri (Tim) Semple of Leonardtown, MD; Stan Knudsen (Judy) of Harlan; three grandchildren, Kimberley (Ken) Lawson of California, MD; Dr. Dawn Knudsen of Peoria, AZ; and Greta Knudsen of Ames; two great-grandchildren, Courtney and Sophia Lawson of California, MD; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held May 16, 2006, at the United Methodist Church in Harlan, with Rev. Dave Swinton officiating. Military rites were conducted in the Harlan Cemetery by the American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 and the Shelby County VFW Post No. 941. Casket bearers were James Nelson, Dale W. Sorenson, Stan Knudsen, Tim Semple, Richard Shaffer, and Kenneth Lawson. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

