

Arnold Knudtson, 91

Feb. 11, 1918 – June 11, 2009

HARLAN – Arnold Christian Knudtson, son of Christian and Clara (Krueger) Knudtson, was born on February 11, 1918, in LaCrosse, WI. He was baptized and confirmed at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in LaCrosse and attended Emmanuel Lutheran School through the eighth grade. He then graduated from Logan High School in LaCrosse with the class of 1936. Arnold continued his education at the Western Wisconsin Business University for two years and was employed as an accountant for Swift & Co. in LaCrosse, WI; Dubuque; Beatrice, NE; and Minot, ND. June 26, 1943, Arnold entered the United States Navy at Minneapolis, MN. He was stationed in the Central Pacific and Okinawa during World War II where he was in the Sea Bees Construction Battalion and was awarded two bronze stars. Arnold was honorably discharged on December 17, 1945, at Great Lakes, IL, having attained the rank of Storekeeper First Class. After returning from the service, Arnold continued to work at Swift & Co. in Dubuque and then was transferred to Atlantic where he met his future wife, Shirley.



September 6, 1947, Arnold was united in marriage to Shirley Irene Dreager in Atlantic. Three children were born to this union: Lynn, Lucinda, and Lee. After a year in Detroit Lakes, MN, Arnold and Shirley moved to Harlan where Arnold was employed as an accountant, office manager at Wilson Seeds in Harlan. He later became a partner and continued to work there for thirty-four years. When Arnold wasn't busy working, he enjoyed traveling with Shirley to many areas including: Germany, Austria, England, and all the states in the Union; collecting stamps; forecasting the weather; playing cards, especially solitaire; and watching sports, in particular the Harlan football and basketball games where he was a frequent spectator. Arnold also raised raspberries and strawberries and made rhubarb wine. His strawberry patch was in the backyard where the kids could pick them for Lynn to sell. Arnold loved spending time in the garden especially when the grandchildren were with him. Arnold was also an active member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan. Arnold became a resident at the Alzheimer Unit at Elm Crest Retirement Community in Harlan on July 3, 2007 and it was there that he died on Thursday, June 11, 2009, having attained the age of ninety-one years and four months.

Arnold is preceded in death by his parents and his mother-in-law. He is survived by his wife Shirley, of sixty-one years, of Harlan; their children Lynn Knudtson and his wife Maria; Lee Knudtson and his wife Cathy; and Cindy and her husband John Masters all of Omaha, NE; six grandchildren: Brian (Amy) Knudtson, Katie (Chris) Saab, Andrew and Emily Masters and Peter Knudtson all of Omaha and Christopher Knudtson of Lawrence, KS; four great-grandchildren: Madelynn, Lillian and Natalia Knudtson and Brenden Saab all of Omaha; a special cousin Catherine Gunn of LaCrosse, WI; other family members and many friends.

Funeral services were held on Monday, June 15, 2009, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan. Pastor

Pauley

Heather Ploen officiated the 10:30 a.m. service with interment at the Harlan Cemetery. Acting as honorary casket bearers were: Doris Towne, Charles and Esther Gearhart, Forrest and Dorothy Petersen, Georgene Peters, Marvin Miller, and Nels Block, Jr. Serving as casket bearers were: Brian Knudtson, Katie Saab, Christopher Knudtson, Peter Knudtson, Andrew Masters and Emily Masters.

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