

Charles Kolb, 86

Oct. 10, 1914 – Jan. 4, 2001

ELK HORN – Charles Kolb, son of William and Addie Clark Kolb, was born Oct. 10, 1914, in Clay Township, Shelby County. Charles was the youngest of four children. He attended grade school at Clay #3 school and graduated with the class of 1933 from Elk Horn High School. After graduation, he worked on the family farm west of Elk Horn until November of 1941, when he enrolled in business school in Des Moines. He didn't get in quite a year of schooling when he was drafted into the army in July of 1942. He served his country in the European Theatre during the war. Returning to Shelby County in October of 1945, he went into partnership with his brothers, Lewis and Gordon, farming the home place where he was born. This partnership lasted until 1969. With Gordon in failing health, they discontinued their farming operation in February of that same year.

He married Virginia (Andersen) Petersen in January of 1970 and they made their home in Elk Horn. During this time he worked as a carpenter and did various jobs for the Salem Homes and was an inspector for the Iowa State Highway Commission. Upon retirement, they moved to Atlantic where he remained until 1997, when he moved to the Salem Retirement Home and entered the nursing home in December 2000. He was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Kimballton, where he served as a board member. He was a member of Liberty Chapter #230 and Grove Lodge #492 AF & AM of Marne. He was also a member of the Amvets and American Legion. He died at Salem Lutheran Home Jan. 4, 2001, at age 86 years, two months and 24 days.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia, in 1989; parents; two brothers, Gordon in 1980 and Lewis in 1990; an sister-in-law, Elvie Kolb in 1992. Charles is survived by a sister, Eunice Kolb of Sun Valley, CA; two nephews, Larry Kolb (Janice) and family of North Hills, CA and Warren Kolb of North Platte, NE; three stepchildren, Carol Petersen (Allan) of Exira; Pastor Arlo Petersen (Kathy) of Alton and Benita Drake (Ron) of Menlo; eight step grandchildren, Jennifer Gustafson (Tony) of Elk Horn; Andy Petersen (Deb) of Urbandale; Angie Petersen of Cherokee; Shaunna Halvorson (Ryan) of Humboldt; Jabrel Petersen of Hospers; and Preston, Landon and Maggie Drake of Menlo. There are also six step great grandchildren as well as two brothers-in-law, Arnold Andersen of San Antonio, TX and Robert Andersen of Thurman.

Funeral services were held Jan. 8, 2001, in the Roland Funeral Home in Atlantic, with Pastor Stephen Gronseth officiating. Burial was in the Monroe Township Cemetery northeast of Walnut, with graveside military services by the American Legion Post #322 of Elk Horn.