

Delbert (Deb) Kullbom, 86

Aug. 16, 1917 - Dec. 8, 2003

ATLANTIC – Delbert L. (Deb) Kullbom was born in rural Harlan, to Lewis and Leila (Albright) Kullbom Aug. 16, 1917. He was reared in the Harlan and the rural Oakland area. He graduated from Harlan High School at age 16. After Deb graduated from high school, he left home and went to VanSandt Business School in Omaha, while attending business school he resided in a mortuary.

Deb married Ione Rowedder Oct. 2, 1937, in Chillicothe, MO. He continued to work for Production Credit in Harlan and Atlantic making his primary home in Atlantic. Because of the skills learned in the business courses, such as shorthand and typing, he was selected to serve in the capacity as an officer's aid in Boise, ID while in the U.S. Navy during Word War II. In subsequent years he initiated a business to design and construct golf courses throughout the state of Iowa. His dream was the development of the Nishna Hills Golf Course in Atlantic. In 1970, he was named Greens Keeper of the Year in the state of Iowa by the Iowa Golf Association. Deb and Ione also started the Cass County Benefit Society which they operated for a number of years. He was an avid believer and participant in AA and for the past 36 years drew a great deal of support and pleasure from this association. He was a resident of Heritage House. He died Dec. 8, 2003, at the Cass County Memorial Hospital, Atlantic, at age 86 years.

Deb was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Ione; an infant daughter, Sandra Joan, in 1939; a son, Lanny James, in 1958; and one brother, Vernon Kullbom. He is survived by two daughters, Connie Johnk and her partner-in-life, Mark Ware of Omaha, NE; Marcia Ennis (Joe) of Bella Vista, AR; five grandchildren, Lanny Johnk (Melissa) of Sioux City; Mitchel Johnk (Kim) of Panora; Laura (Ken) Moore of Oakland; Lisa (Curtis) Williams of Leavenwood, KS; Trey Ennis (Kim) of Overland Park, KS; 12 great grandchildren, Derek and Rachel Johnk; Austin, Karlee and Morgan Johnk; Regan and McKenzie Moore; Nicholas and Zachery Williams; Tye, Chloe and Page Ennis; one great great granddaughter, Allie Johnk; one sister, Twyla Schnack of Harlan; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 10, 2003, at the Roland Funeral Home in Atlantic, with Rev. Gary DeGeest of the First United Methodist Church officiating. Burial was in the Atlantic Cemetery.