

## **Darald Larsen, 69**

*Feb. 21, 1938 - Oct. 5, 2007*

**WALNUT** — Darald Dean Larsen, son of Elmer and Eva (Petersen) Larsen, was born Feb. 21, 1938, in Runnells. He attended rural Audubon and Shelby County schools and graduated from Harlan High School with the class of 1956. After high school, he worked with the United States Forest Service in Montana. In 1959, Darald joined the United States Army and served until his honorable discharge in 1961.

Darald married Betty Jane Saunders June 16, 1962, in Manilla. After their marriage, he worked for various highway construction contractors, working on the I-80 Interstate project. From 1970 to 1980 he owned a feedlot cleaning business with Robert Dierking. In 1980, Darald and his son, Eric, began Larsen and Son Construction. He belonged to many organizations in his life which included the Land Improvement Contractors Association; where he served as president and vice-president; he also served on the Walnut City Council and as mayor. He died Oct. 5, 2007, at his home surrounded by his family at age 69 years, seven months and 14 days.

In addition to his parents Darald was preceded in death by his sister, Becky Saar. Survivors include his wife, Betty Larsen of Walnut; his children, Eric Larsen (Rhonda) of Atlantic; Lori Larsen-Sievers of Walnut; Karol (Mark) Beckendorf of Grimes; Rachel (Lenny) Becerra of Walnut and LeAnne (Tony) Blotzer of Walnut; 14 grandchildren, Tyller and Lane Freeman and Sierra Larsen; Cole, Sarah and Connor Sievers; Kacey and Corey Beckendorf; Breann, Cole, Alyssa and Joel Becerra; and Jordan and Joey Blotzer; his brothers, Virgil Larsen (Mary Ann) of Pleasant Hill; Gary Larsen (Janet) of Johnston; Leon Larsen (Kila) of Yorktown; his sister, Joy Stumme of Springfield, NE; nieces and nephews, and other relatives.

Memorial services were held Oct. 8, 2007, at Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Avoca, with Pastor David Krueger officiating. Honorary casket bearers were his grandchildren with Howard Thraen, Leo Rieken, Ron Mathiasen, Larry Greedy, Dennis Akers, Verle Doonan and Ron Meisel casket bearers. Burial was in the Layton Township Cemetery in Walnut, with military rites by the Walnut American Legion Post #422.