

John "Vernon" Murray, 80

Aug. 12, 1927 - Sept. 21, 2007

WALNUT — John Vernon Murray, son of John L. & Goldie (Miller) Murray, was born on his family's farm outside of Audubon, Aug. 12, 1927. He attended rural school outside of Audubon until the eighth grade when he went to work full time on the farm. He later went on to receive his General Education Degree in Avoca. Vernon served his country honorably during the Korean Conflict while being stationed in Alaska. After his discharge from the service, Vernon made his home near Walnut.

June 27, 1954, Vernon married Ruth Jean Petersen. One son, Michael, was born to this union. After their marriage, Vernon worked for Carl Martin as a carpenter for many years helping build homes in the Avoca and Walnut areas. He then went to work for the city of Walnut where he retired after working for over 15 years. Once retired, Vernon and Ruth continued to make their home in Walnut. Ruth died May 14, 2004, and the following fall, Vernon made his home at Peace Haven in Walnut. In April of 2007, he moved to the Colonial Manor in Anita, and this has been his home since. He died at the Cass County Memorial Hospital in Atlantic, Sept. 21, 2007, at age 80 years, one month and nine days.

In addition to his wife, Ruth, Vernon was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his son, Michael (Patty) of Fort Irwin, CA; his grandsons, Andrew and Bennett Murray; and his three sisters, Gertrude (Fred) Matthias of Walnut; Mildred (Gerald) Martin of Breton; and Dorothy (Darrell) Bauerkemper of Walnut; nieces and nephews, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Sept. 25, 2007, at the First Presbyterian Church in Walnut, with Pastor David Krueger officiating. Casket bearers were Tim Swank, Brian Petersen, Donnie Bauerkemper, Bob Matthies, Roger Martin and Doug Matthies. Military rites were by the Walnut American Legion Post # 422 with burial in Layton Township Cemetery, Walnut. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Walnut, in charge of arrangements.