

## Clarence McDermott, 85

*Aug. 7, 1918 - Feb. 10, 2004*

**HARLAN** - Clarence Joseph McDermott, the son of Harry and Josephine Brindley McDermott, was born Aug. 7, 1918, in Monroe Township, Shelby County. He attended grade school in Walnut and graduated from Walnut High School. Upon graduation, he attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Aug. 15, 1941, he was inducted into the United States Army Air Corps at Fort Crook, NE. He attended basic training at Fort FE Warren in Cheyenne, WY. He was assigned to six different bases across the west.



July 7, 1942, Clarence married Alice Juanita Jensen at Papillion, NE. To this union six children were born. After their wedding, he continued to serve in the armed forces. In 1945, Clarence went overseas to Clark Field in the Philippines. He was loaded on an L.S.T. for the invasion of Japan. While they were at sea, the atomic bomb was dropped on Japan. They unloaded at Ishema just as the Japanese white planes with green crosses landed, which signified the surrender of Japan. He continued to serve in the post war occupation force in Japan. Clarence was honorably discharged Nov. 18, 1945, at Fort Leavenworth, KS, as a Master Sergeant with the military qualification of Carbine Marksman. In 1949, he returned to Shelby County as a Farm Bureau Field Man. Clarence farmed in Shelby County from 1954 to 1983, before retiring and moving to Harlan. He was very active in the community. In 1992 he was honored with the Citizen of the Years Award from the Harlan Chamber of Commerce. He founded the Lincoln Leaders 4-H Club, was the president of the Harlan School Board, was a member of the Shelby County 4-H Committee, Shelby County Soil Conservation Board, State Soil Conservation Board, Shelby County Board of Supervisors, Shelby County Beef Producers, Shelby County Pork Producers, Southwest Iowa Farm Business Association Board, Golden Kiwanis and was the president of the Shelby County Farm Bureau Board. Clarence also served on various regional and state boards for the Board of Supervisors. He was also a member of the American Legion and a lifetime member of the VFW, and a member of the Congregational Church of Christ in Harlan. He died Feb. 10, 2004, at Myrtle Memorial Hospital at 85 years, six months and three days.

In addition to his parents, Clarence was preceded in death by a son, Don. Survivors include his wife, Juanita, of Harlan; his children, Larry McDermott (Connie) of Harlan; David McDermott (Janet) of Story City; Dennis McDermott (Julianne) of Milwaukie, OR; Dallas McDermott (Lois) of Harlan; Rhonda (Tim) Edgecomb of Harlan; 15 grandchildren; four great grandchildren; one step great grandson; his sister, Velma (Tom) Fell of Walnut; his brother, Robert McDermott (Shirley) of Atlantic; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Feb. 14, 2004, at the First Baptist Church in Harlan, with Rev. Donna Ewert and Rev. Gundar Lamberts officiating. Military rites were conducted in the Harlan Cemetery by the American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 and the Shelby County VFW Post No. 941 and Joshua Edgecomb and Jay McDermott honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Kent McDermott, Steven McDermott, Loren McDermott, Matt McDermott, Chad McDermott and Ryan McDermott. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.