

Vernon Petersen, 87 ✓

Jan. 30, 1919 - July 8, 2006

HARLAN—Vernon G. Petersen, the son of Peter and Matilda M. (Smidt) Petersen, was born Jan. 30, 1919, in Harlan. He was baptized and confirmed at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville. He attended Harlan Community Schools. April 4, 1942, Vernon enlisted in the United States Army at Fort Des Moines. He served his country during World War II in the South Pacific. Vernon was awarded a Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star and a Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged Nov. 29, 1945, at Ft. Leavenworth, KS.

Sept. 21, 1950, Vernon married Alice (Davis) Kay at the Little Brown Church in Nashua. They raised one son, Leonard. After their marriage, the couple made their home on a farm north of Jacksonville until moving to Harlan in March of 1968, when he retired. Vernon was a lifelong member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville and a member of the Shelby County VFW Post No. 941. He died July 8, 2006, at the residence of his son in Council Bluffs at age 87 years, five months and eight days.

In addition to his parents, and his wife, Alice, Vernon was preceded in death by his sister, Ruth Jean Hansen, and Leland Smidt. Survivors include his son, Leonard Kay (Celine) of Council Bluffs; three grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; his sister, Eunice (James) Kemp of Atlantic; and his brother-in-law, Orville Hansen of Audubon; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held July 13, 2006, at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, with Pastor Ron Rasmussen officiating. Military rites were conducted in the Jacksonville Cemetery by the American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 and the Shelby County VFW Post No. 941. Casket bearers were Dan Duggan, Jim Chambers, Mike Gaul, Max Hansen, Jeff Eggerling, and Mike Sorrell. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

