

Merlin Peterson, 65

Dec. 6, 1934 – Aug. 2, 2000

THORNTON, CO – Merlin Leroy Peterson was born Dec. 6, 1934, in Honey Creek, son of Henry C. and Elsie Benson Peterson, and was one of four children in the family. He attended school in Shelby. He joined the Army in 1955, and was discharged in 1958 with the rank of Corporal.

He married Marlene Wendt Aug. 9, 1959 in Avoca. They were the parents of four children, Garland, Jennifer, Janelle and James. He worked at various occupations while living in Phoenix, AZ, Anita and Guthrie Center, where they lived for 11 years. In 1974, they moved to Peken, and lived there until 1994, when they moved to the Denver, CO area and became managers of a Super 8 Motel in Henderson, CO. He was a past member of the Masonic Lodge in Iowa, a volunteer fireman for 10 years while in Guthrie Center and was a member of the Easter Star. He died suddenly Aug. 2, 2000, at the North Suburban Medical Center in Thornton, CO, at age 65 years, seven months and 27 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Chester and Wayne. He is survived by his wife, Marlene; four children, Garland Peterson (Cheryl) of Vilonia, AR; Jennifer (Terry) Miller of Harcourt; Janelle Wilkey of Clarksville, TN and James Peterson (Tonya) living in Germany; five grandchildren; one sister, Genevieve Madsen of Omaha, NE; a sister-in-law, Irene Peterson of Shelby, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Aug. 5, 2000, at the Shelby Lutheran Church with Pastor Robert L. Capps officiating. Burial was in the Shelby Cemetery. Casket bearers were Francis Fye, Dean Osen, Leonard Hollar, Eugene Wendt, Robert Wendt and Byron Martin. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.