

Kenneth Potts, 79

April 15, 1925 - May 26, 2004

ELK HORN – Kenneth Virgil Potts was born April 15, 1925, to Walter and Anna (Carlson) Potts at the family farm west of Elk Horn. Ken attended country school and Elk Horn High School, graduating with the class of 1943. In 1944, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy serving as a gunner's mate in World War II stationed in Hawaii. Upon honorable discharge from the Navy in 1946, he moved to Fargo, ND and worked for Northern Pacific Railroad.

Aug. 1, 1948, Ken married Joanne Lykke. They moved to the family farm near Elk Horn in 1949. After returning to the farm, he took additional agricultural training through GI school. Ken was engaged in farming for many years and also worked as an electrician. Additionally, he was employed in the bridge construction business for many years and prior to retirement worked at Imperial Cleavite in Atlantic. He was a member of the Elk Horn Church where he was baptized and confirmed. He actively participated in various community activities. Ken was a member of the Elk Horn Legion. He also volunteered many hours at Prairie Rose State Park, served on the Elk Horn School Board, was active in the Better Elk Horn Club and spent numerous volunteer hours working to get a new swimming pool built in Elk Horn. Ken was instrumental in installing lighting for the current Elk Horn-Kimballton High School football field and track. He died May 26, 2004, at Myrtle Memorial Hospital at age 79.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Anna (1941), and father, Walter Potts (1943); his brother, Wallace Potts (1943); and sister, Ruby Kielau (1956). Ken is survived by his wife, Joanne, of rural Elk Horn; his children, Karen Petersen of Ames; Tom Potts of Elk Horn; Gloria Ahrendsen (Bruce) of Audubon; and Tim Potts of Shelby; grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Michone Kuhlman and daughter, Alexandria of Libertyville, IL; Lisa Coblentz (Glen) and son, Zachary of Erie, CO; Nate Potts (Carri) and sons, Trey and Aiden of Elk Horn; Steve, Luke and Kylie Ahrendsen of Audubon; brother, Ezra Potts of Middle Lake, SK Canada; sister-in-law, Honor Sanville of Westbrook, ME; brother-in-law, Maurice Lykke of Fargo, ND; and nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held May 31, 2004, at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church with Pastor Michael Williams officiating with military honors by the American Legion Post 322. Ohde Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.