

Jerome Reisch, 68

Nov. 2, 1931 - Jan. 16, 1999 ✓

AVOCA - Jerome Raymond Reisch was born Nov. 2, 1931, in Le Mars, the son of Nick and Rose Bohlke Reisch. The family moved to a farm near Salix, when Jerry was two years old. He attended school there and graduated from St. Joseph's Catholic School in 1949. Immediately after graduation, he chose to become a three time military volunteer: the Army, the Paratroopers and the very first Airborne Rangers. He served most of his Army time in Korea during the Korean War.

After being discharged, he moved to Omaha, where he met his future wife, June Campbell. They were married at St. John's Cathedral in Omaha, Nov. 20, 1954. Jobs held by Jerry during the subsequent years were tugboat captain on the Missouri River, tavern owner in Co. Bluffs and Roberts Dairy delivery man. In June of 1969, he took over the State Farm Insurance Agency in Avoca, a position he held for the next 25 1/2 years before retiring at the end of 1994. While living in Avoca, he was a member of the Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department for 19 years, qualifying as an EMT shortly after joining. He was a member of the American Legion Post #227, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Knights of Columbus at St. Mary's Catholic Church, and served on the Pottawattamie County Fair Board and the original Avoca Golf Course Board of Directors. After his retirement, they traveled in their motor home to Alaska, California, Arizona, Florida and many other local sites. In addition, he took many fishing trips through the years to Canada with his fishing buddies. He died Jan. 16, 1999, at his home in Avoca from complications of cancer.

He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, June; daughter, Rhonda Hope (Mike) of Avoca; sons, Ron of Miami Beach, FL and Russ of Tampa, FL; grandchildren, Chantelle, Nick and Chondra Hope; a sister, Faye Monjon of Sioux City; and brothers, James Reisch (Lela) of Salix and Robert Reisch (Jean) of Panama City, FL.

Funeral services were held Jan. 19, 1999, at the St. Mary's Catholic Church, Avoca, with Father Fred Reisch officiating. Burial was in Graceland Cemetery, Avoca, with military graveside rites conducted by the Avoca American Legion and VFW Posts. Honorary casket bearers were Daryle Bailey, Eldon Riesgaard, Charles Kock and Don Langholtz. Casket bearers were Clay Johansen, Pete Bramman, Morris Berndt, Tom True, Dean Henning and Kennard Mertz. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.