

## Russell Thompson, 72

*Aug. 28, 1929 - Jan. 31, 2002*

**MESA, AZ** — Russell "Rusty" Eugene Thompson was born Aug. 28, 1929, on a farm near Irwin to Danley and Gladys Mellrup Thompson. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Irwin and also attended school in Irwin, graduating in 1947. He attended Junior College in Creston, and later transferred to Iowa State University. He entered the United States Air Force and trained as a pilot during the Korean War. Upon returning, he earned his Bachelor's degree in Animal Husbandry from Iowa State University. He was employed as 4-H Youth Director in Sioux City and Tipton, and then worked for the National Livestock and Meat Board in Chicago.



After marrying Dixie Ann Larson, Feb. 14, 1962, they came back to Irwin to farm and raise their family. During this time he worked for Moormans Feed and taught vocational agriculture in Avoca and high school agriculture in Shelby and Harlan. He was also a DJ at KNOD radio. Rusty moved to Mesa, AZ in 1984, where he raised grapefruit. He was employed at O'Mally's Lumber, Kmart and NAPA Auto Parts. He died at home with his family Jan. 31, 2002, in Mesa, due to complications from lung cancer.

He is survived by his wife, Dixie Ann; two sons, Patrick of Irwin and Eric of Mesa, AZ; three daughters, Allyson (Bart) Schmidt of Harlan; Cynthia (Lynn) Rutherford of Story City and Elizabeth Anne Butler (Bill) of Copperas Cove, TX; two brothers, Allan Thompson (Lyla) of Irwin and Donald Thompson of Queen Creek, AZ; one sister, Gloria (Paul) Bunge of Osage; 11 grandchildren, Chad, Jessica, Autumn, Blake, Chelsey, Alexandria, Caitlyn, Olexis, Cheyanne, Shelby and Faith; one great grandchild, Alexis; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A memorial service was held Aug. 5, 2002, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Irwin, with Jason Larson and Lee Pedersen speakers. Burial was in the Oak Hill Cemetery in Irwin.