

Dr. Robert D. Wunder, 76

Oct. 31, 1923 – May 8, 2000

HARLAN – Robert Dean Wunder, son of Frank and Eola (Borland) Wunder, was born Oct. 31, 1923, at Minden. He was baptized at the Congregational Church in Minden, and later became a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Avoca. He attended country school and was a graduate from Minden High School. He was inducted into the United States Army Air Force July 15, 1943, and served as a control tower operator. He was honored with the American Theater Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Feb. 28, 1946. Robert went to Iowa State University, was a member of Theta Chi Fraternity, and received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1951. He lived in Ames, until graduation and then moved to Avoca.

He married Frances Langin June 26, 1947, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Neola. Six children were born to this union. Following the death of Dr. Leach, Robert took over his veterinary practice in Avoca. He also worked for the Iowa Department of Agriculture until his retirement in 1989. Upon retirement, he became a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. He was a member of the Iowa and American Veterinary Medical Association, AvoHa School Board, St. Mary's Parish Council, Bank Director at the Citizen's Bank in Avoca, and the Fred Funston American Legion Post No. 227 of Avoca. He died May 8, 2000, at his home in Harlan, at age 76 years, six months and seven days.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Frank. Survivors include his wife, Frances of Harlan; his children, Stephen Wunder (Carol Foster) of Kingwood, TX; Brian Wunder (Charna) of Kansas City, MO; Mary (Rodrigo) Lopez of Omaha, NE; Dennis Wunder (Susy) of Kansas City, MO; Ellen Wunder (Kevin) Garcia of The Woodlands, TX; Mark Wunder (Marilyn) of Coralville; 12 grandchildren; brother, Eldon Wunder (Toni) of Cedar Falls; sister, Eleanor (Philip) Groth of Pella, and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated May 11, 2000, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan, with Reverend Howard Fitzgerald celebrant and Reverend Paul Monahan concelebrating. Military rites were conducted at Graceland Cemetery in Avoca, with Stephen Wunder, Mark Wunder, Rodrigo Lopez, Brian Wunder, Dennis Wunder and Kevin Garcia casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.