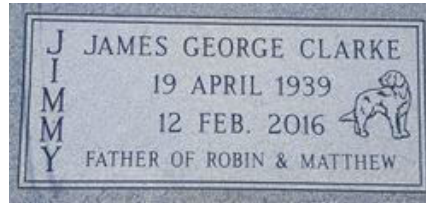


CLARKE, JAMES GEORGE

Birth

April 19, 1939 at Des Moines,
Polk Co., Iowa



Death

February 12, 2016

Cause of death

Cemetery Lot

Row 3, Space 11
In the New Addition

Father

Henry Clarke



Mother

Kathryn Houk

Census

1940 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; ED91-19; Page 2B; April 5-6, 1940
#37 – rent home; value of home \$10; same house as in 1935

Clarke, Henry F.	34	farmer	IA
Catherine M.	28		IA
Janice D.	04		IA
James Paul	00 11/12		IA
Clarke, George Paul	44	brother – farmer	IA

The James Paul on this census is James George Clarke.

Obituary

[The Des Moines Sunday Register, February 14, 2016, Page 23A]

James Clarke, age 76, of Norwalk, passed away Friday, February 12, 2016.

Visitation with the family will be Sunday, February 14th from 3 to 6 p.m. at O'Leary Celebration of Life Center and Funeral Services in Norwalk with a Funeral Service being held at 10 a.m. Monday, February 15th at the Norwalk Christian Church.

For a complete obituary, to sign his on-line guest book and to order flowers for the service visit www.olearyfunerals.com or call 515-981-0700.

Jim was a heavy equipment mechanic at Ziegler Cat (formerly Gibbs-Cook). He was a charter member of Central Hawkeye Gas Engine Club.

He is survived by his children, Robin Clarke (husband, Allan Molnar) of New York, Matthew Guy Clarke of Norwalk; his siblings, Jody Clarke of Chariton and Janice Stemler of Glendale, Arizona; several nieces and nephews; and a large step-family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Kathryn Clarke; and his second wife, Mary G. Clarke.

From O'Leary Funeral Home

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To sign his on-line guest book and to order flowers for the service to guarantee deliver to the visitation on Sunday click a tab below or call 515-981-0700.

Jim's Life Story

Jim the son of Henry and Kathryn Houk Clarke was born April 19, 1939 in Des Moines, Iowa. He grew up on a family farm in Norwalk along with his sister Janice and brother Jody.

Jim and his parents were all lifelong members of the Norwalk Christian Church where Jim served as Deacon and taught Sunday school. He was baptized on Easter Sunday, April 9, 1950. Jim attended Norwalk Schools and graduated from Grimes High School in 1958.

During his youth, he was a personal driver for Barnes Rodeo out of Cherokee, Iowa and was a calf roper, bronc and bull rider on the rodeo circuit from Wisconsin to Arkansas to Arizona. He spent one winter building fence in Arizona desert and when the weather warmed up and the rattlesnakes came out, he headed back to Iowa, and served his country in the Iowa National Guard.

Jim worked at various jobs, including as a Methodist Hospital orderly, where he met his first wife, Nancy, while she attended Iowa Methodist School of Nursing. Jim and Nancy were married in 1960 and had two children, Robin and Matthew.

While working at Carlisle Lumber Company, he learned the many skills needed to personally build a family home in rural Norwalk. Other jobs included Frye's Manufacturing, Bookie Packing Plant, and Warren County Engineering where he was advised, with his skills, he should apply to Gibbs-Cook Caterpillar.

Jim also operated various small businesses, the first in 1980 making gas engines and tractor parts as Clarke Machine and Foundry. Jim married his second wife, Mary, in 1989 and together they ran Clarke's Country Crafts where they created special treasures for their families, and sold crafts at various craft sales and flea markets.

Jim and Mary were also AKC licensed and operated Clarke's Kennels, having up to 50 breeding dogs at one time, and also raised wolves. They specialized in golden retrievers and Irish setters.

Jim worked at Gibbs-Cook Caterpillar (later named Ziegler Cat) for almost 40 years where he was a heavy equipment mechanic. He had extensive training for his trade, and was a certified link belt mechanic.

In addition to working full time, he also always worked on the family farm which was awarded Century status in 1992. He raised row crops, feedlot cattle and hogs.

Jim was a member of the National Trap Shooters Association where he enjoyed a lifelong hobby, and he taught many family members how to shoot. He was a charter member of the Central Hawkeye Gasoline Engine and Tractor Association.

Jim died Friday, February 12, 2016 in Osceola, Iowa.

He is survived by his former wife, Nancy Clark Henry, of Earlham; his daughter, Robin Clarke (Allan Molnar) of New York, and his son, Matthew Clarke of Norwalk; sister, Janice Stemler of Glendale, Arizona and brother, Jody Clarke of Chariton; nieces and nephews, Wanda Caldwell, Michael Stemler, Barbara Albright, Benjamin Clarke, Jennifer Clarke, Jessica Bishop and Dillion Clarke; stepchildren Deborah Tell, Margo Reeves, LuAnne Meeks, and Jonette Ellis; eight step grandchildren; and twenty step great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Kathryn and his wife Mary.