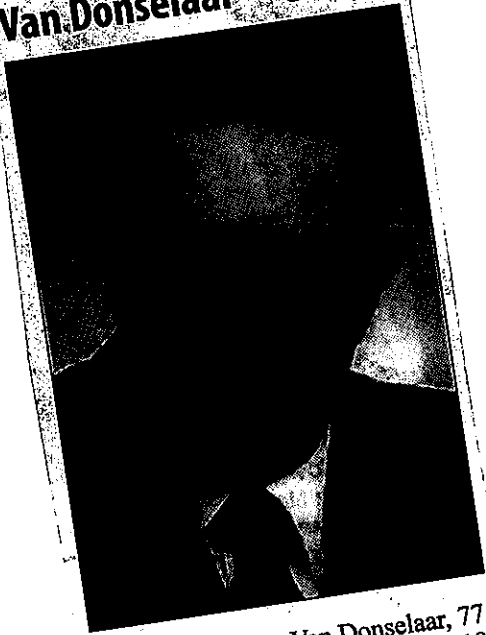


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Marvin Rodney Van Donselaar 7-8-2013



Marvin Rodney Van Donselaar, 77, formerly of this area, died June 19, 2013, at the Christian Care Center in Phoenix, Ariz.

He was born Nov. 21, 1935, to Henry and Grace Van Donselaar on their small farm near Grinnell. He helped his father with crops and livestock, and his love of gardening came from helping his mother with the family garden and canning the harvest.

Marvin was active in high school: he ran track, winning medals at the Drake University track meet in Des Moines, and was involved in Grinnell High School varsity football, 4H and FFA. He graduated in 1954 and joined the U.S. Army becoming part of the 11th Airborne Division Paratroopers, earning his wings when completing 25 jumps.

He met his bride-to-be at Quaker bible camp. On Jan. 17, 1956, he married Joyce Hastings and they raised three children who helped with hay baling, feeding livestock and gardening.

In 1973 the whole family relocated to Phoenix, Ariz., living there until 1980 when he went to work for a hog farm in Snowflake, Ariz. In 1990 he was able to start a farm of his own with help from family. Marvin was featured in the Arizona Highways Magazine with a photo of him loading feed in his truck at the Snowflake Feed Mill. He retired from raising hogs, living in Snowflake until he was moved to Phoenix due to his health.

He is survived by three brothers: Gordon of Grinnell, Vern of Ft. Worth, Texas, and Paul of Brea, Calif.; two sisters, Juanita Van Donselaar of Ft. Worth, Texas, and Evelyn of Spokane, Wash.; his daughter Ronda Tweedy of Prescott, Ariz.; two sons, Tim of Loveland, Colo., and Tom of Glendale, Ariz.; eight grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren, with one on the way.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his sister Dorothy Van Donselaar.