

Earl Van Wyk

DT 8-24-2011

Earl Eugene Van Wyk was the first child born to Gerrit W. and Cora (Vander Leest) Van Wyk. He was born on March 3, 1931, in Jasper County near Monroe, Iowa. Earl attended elementary school in Marion and Jasper County, Iowa and Monroe High School class of 1949. Earl began working on local farms and for Wind Power Manufacturing in Newton, Iowa. He enlisted in the Iowa National Guard and was inducted into the United States Army in June of 1953. On his first furlough he and Gloria Langstraat, a daughter of John and Anna (Vander Hart) Langstraat of Knoxville, Iowa, were united in marriage on October 9, 1953 at the First Baptist Church in Monroe, with Rev. Donald Brong officiating. The newlyweds returned to Camp Polk, Louisiana and lived in Leesville, Louisiana. Earl finished his tenure of service with the U.S. Army in 1955 at Fort Riley, Kansas. Earl and Gloria lived in Manhattan, Kansas and to this union two daughters were born: Doreen Joyce and Kristen Gail.

Following Earl's discharge the family returned to Monroe, Iowa where Earl candled eggs until November, 1957, when he started working at Vermeer Manufacturing Company in Pella, Iowa. Earl's lifelong goal was to be a farmer; in 1967 the family moved to a farm west of Monroe, and Earl achieved his goal in 1972. Earl enjoyed raising livestock until arthritis made it difficult for him to continue farming. The family moved into Monroe in 1989, where Earl drove a school bus for the Prairie City Monroe Community School District. He enjoyed life on the farm, riding motorcycles, traveling, gospel concerts and any opportunity to spend time with his family.

In 2008 Earl was recognized as having early signs of dementia and was eventually cared for in the Nelson Manor Nursing Home in Newton. On Wednesday afternoon, August 17, 2011, he passed away in the Skiff Hospital Monarch Wing in Newton. He was 80 years old. Earl and Gloria were married for more than 57 years.

Earl loved his wife and children, his five grandchildren, his

four step-grandchildren, and his six great-grandchildren more than anything. They and their families who are celebrating his life are:

His daughter, Doreen, and her husband Brent Stroud of Ankeny, IA

Chad and Shay Vande Lune
Nathan, Aaron Vande Lune
Rob and Erin Vande Lune
Gracie, Karys, Addyson and Tobias Vande Lune

Heather and Seth Comfort
Jennifer and Ty Castle
Brian and Sara Stroud

His daughter, Kristen, and her husband Greg Tolander of Austin, TX

Matthew Tolander
John Elliott Tolander
Kari and Chris Schimpf
Rachel Tolander

Together with many nieces, nephews, and friends, Earl leaves these members of his original family:

His brother, Darrell Van Wyk and his wife, Joanne, of Monroe, IA, his sister, Lavonne, and her husband, Bill Brouwer, of Marion, IA, his sister, Shirley, and her husband, Dwight Van Wyngarden, of Waterloo, IA, his sister-in-law, Joyce (Langstraat), and her husband, Scott Pearson, of Knoxville, IA, his brother-in-law, Phil Langstraat and his wife, Karen of Indianola, his brother-in-law, Tone Nunnikhoven, of Waukee, IA

Earl was preceded in death by his parents, Gerrit W. and Cora Van Wyk, his parents-in-law, John and Anna Langstraat, his sister-in-law, Bertha (Langstraat) Nunnikhoven, his niece, Kelly Jo Stuart.

Earl was an honest man, had integrity and respected other people. He served in various offices at the First Baptist Church in Monroe, Iowa and often shared his faith one on one with his family and friends. Earl loved the Lord.

Funeral services were held Saturday, August 20, at First Baptist Church, Monroe, Iowa with interment in the Oakwood Cemetery at Pella, Iowa

For those desiring, memorials may be designated for Jasper County Hospice, Iowa Regular Baptist Camp/Clear Lake, IA or the Monroe Fire Department.