



Howard Sommerhalder
October 20, 1923 - March 18, 2013

Howard Robert Sommerhalder, 89 of Steinauer, Nebraska passed away on Monday, March 18, 2013, in Pawnee City, Nebraska. He was born to Oscar and Ida (Bartels) Sommerhalder on October 20, 1923, at the farm south and west of Steinauer, Nebraska.

He went to a country school north of his home place. He then went to Steinauer Public School and graduated in 1941. He helped his father farm then joined the Army in December 1944. He was in the 19th infantry regiment serving in the south Philippines. He was honorably discharged in 1946.

He returned home and farmed with his father, later buying his own farm at the west end of the section. He sang in the Men's Choir and called square dances for the Rural Youth Group of SE Nebraska where he met his future wife, Janelle Reist. He was active in the Salems E & R church and held many offices in the Brotherhood and church. The church later became the Salem United Church of Christ. The brotherhood helped those in need, assisted when tragedy struck and hosted Mother Daughter banquets, wild game feeds and potato bakes. He loved to sing and was a member of the Salem Men's Choir. He served on the Lewiston School Board. Howard was part of a group of farmers who organized the Rock Creek Watershed District of 960 acres and 5 large ponds and other smaller ponds and that helped to keep the water from flooding the town of Steinauer. He continued to farm until a stroke in April of 2003.

He was at home until April of 2005 when he moved to the Pawnee Manor where he resided until his death. To this union five children were born, Elizabeth (Robert) Bania of Issaquah, WA, Sheila (Tom) Lynch of Black Creek, WI, Nancy (John) Harms of Sterling, NE, Darrell(Tammy) of Auburn, NE, Dan (Suzanne) of Steinauer, NE. Grandchildren, Anne and

Michael Bania, Nick and Megan Lynch, Nicole, Andrew and Lauren Harms, Cortney (Dustin) Eggers, Clinton and Carrie Sommerhalder, Ryan and Leslie Sommerhalder.

Howard was preceded in death by his parents, Oscar and Ida, sister Evelyn. He is survived by his wife Janell of 57 years, brother Del and wife Joy of Texas, his 5 children and spouses, 10 grandchildren and 2 step-grandchildren.

Services 10:30 Saturday, March 23, 2013, at Salem United Church of Christ, in Steinauer, Nebraska. Officiating Reverend Kathy Rahorst. Visitation on Friday, March 22, 2013, from Noon to 8 p.m. and family greeting friends from 6-8 p.m. at Wherry Mortuary, 919 G Street, Pawnee City, Nebraska.

Interment at the Salem United Church of Christ, Steinauer, Nebraska.

Memorials may be given to Salem United Church of Christ or the Pawnee Manor.