



Willis L. Engle

September 15, 1933 - July 28, 2014

Willis Leroy Engle was born to Constantine A. Engle and Emma A. (Svehla) Engle on September 15, 1933 at Geneva, NE and passed away July 28, 2014 at the Veterans Home in Grand Island, NE at the age of 80 years, 10 months and 13 days. He was one of 8 children.

He attended country school east of Geneva at Dist. #68. He graduated from Geneva High School in 1951 where he enjoyed attending many activities, especially being involved in the FFA. After graduation he began his farming career. In 1954 he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He served 2 years of active duty in various places including Germany, Austria and Greece. He also served 6 years of reserve duty. One story he always told family was when he went overseas on the ship he was always sea sick and all he could eat was coke and peanuts. Another story family remembers him telling is the horrible sunburn he got on the beaches of Greece on a cloudy day.

During his time in the service he was a Supply Specialist and was especially proud of being a member of the Company Marksmanship Rifle Team. After his service in the military he became a member of the American Legion and a Lifetime member of the VFW and AMVETS.

After his time of active service in the military he returned to the farm where he stayed until 1986. During the time on the farm he loved to watch the crops and livestock grow. Even in later years when he wasn't farming anymore he always kept an eye on his nephew's corn field on the east edge of Geneva which was only a couple blocks from home.

In his single days his favorite past time was going to dances and bars around the area with his friends. Another activity he enjoyed doing was playing softball and that is where he met Beth Sjolholm. They were married October 12, 1962 in Geneva. They brought three children into their lives through adoption: Tim, Karyl and Chris. Through the years of the children's growing up they never missed an activity, whether it was going to their own children's activities or especially their nephew's sporting events. Softball was a huge part of Willis and Beth's summers, especially their nephew's softball teams. If you ever saw the blue and white bus coming into town with Willis behind the wheel you knew that the Westside Softball Team was in town and there was going to be a beer or two involved.

In 1986 Willis quit farming and Willis and Beth moved to Kansas where Willis's daily routine consisted of working at Eldorado International and a stop at Sinclair Gas Station to shoot the breeze. He worked at Eldorado until he retired in 2003. Upon retirement he moved back to the old home town of Geneva working for the City of Geneva, running the city dump until 2011. Usually you could find him puttering around town with his pipe in his mouth checking out what was going on especially at the Coop or out at the city dump making sure George was doing his job right.

Willis was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Beth, Brother's Frank Engle and Harold Engle, Sister Anna Vnoucek, Sister-In-Law Helen Engle, and Son-In-Law Marlyn Herron, Jr.

He is survived by children: Son, Tim and wife Amy Engle of Geneva, Daughter, Karyl Engle of Lindsborg, KS and son, Chris Engle of Salina, KS.

Grandchildren: Brady and Megan Engle of Geneva, Lindsi Engle of Salina, KS, Cody Engle of Salina, KS, Haylie Kingsley of Delphos, KS, Alix and Ryin Engle of Salina, KS and Step Grandchildren, MaKayla, Jaidan and Erykah Carr of Salina, KS Brother: George and wife Phyllis Engle of Geneva. Sisters Eleanor and husband Arlan Becker of Exeter, Ruth and husband Delbert Sorge of Geneva, Mary and husband Ron Uldrich of Milligan. Brothers-In-Law Joe Vnoucek of Friend, John and wife Darla Sjolholm of Wright City, MO, and

many nieces, nephews and friends.

Funeral services for Willis were held on Friday, August 1, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Geneva. Rev. Diane Ryder officiated the services. The recorded music "Amazing Grace" and "How Great Thou Art" were played during the service.

Pallbearers for the service included Tom Trapp, Paul Mau, Brady Engle, Bob Engle, Dan Sorge, and Jim Engle. Interment was held in the Geneva Public Cemetery following the funeral service with Military Rites performed by the Geneva VFW Samuel J. Marsh Post 7102. Farmer & Son Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements. Memorials are directed to the family to be designated at a later date.

Tribute Wall

JS

“ Our condolences to the family. Willy was a loving husband and provider for my sister Beth for many years and sat by her through her illness. I will always remember my time as a fledgling pilot flying to Geneva and buzzing the house and he would come pick me up at the airport a few miles away. And of course the Minnie tractors, and the electric chicken plucker. John, Darla and April Sjolholm

John Sjolholm - July 30, 2014 at 12:20 PM

ME

“ We are sorry to hear about Willis, he was a great friend. We always enjoyed our talks, he will be missed, but will forever live in the hearts of everyone who knew him. With Sympathy

Mark, Sarah, Brandon & Ethan - July 29, 2014 at 09:51 PM