



Wayne W. Erickson

January 5, 1923 - April 28, 2014

Sutton resident Wayne W. Erickson, 91, died Monday, April 28, 2014, at the Sutton Community Home in Sutton, NE.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Friday, May 2, 2014, at the Federated Church in Sutton, NE with Rev. Harry Cross and Rev. Dr. Lee Wigert officiating. Interment will follow at the United Methodist Cemetery near Saronville, NE., with military honors by the Sutton American Legion Argonne Post #61. Visitation will be Thursday, from 1 p.m. - 8 p.m., with the family present from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m., at Sutton Memorial Chapel in Sutton, NE.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the family to be designated at a later date.

Wayne Erickson was born January 5, 1923, in rural Saronville, NE north of the Erickson-Percival Reservoir to Wenzell and Nellie (Nelson) Erickson. His mother died when he was ten days old. He spent the first part of his life with his Uncle Marvin and Aunt Effie Schultz. When he was older, he lived with his father near Saronville. He was baptized and confirmed at the Saronville United Methodist Church where he remained a member until its closing in 1991. He then became a member of the Sutton Federated Church.

He attended rural school until second grade and then went on to graduate

from Sutton High School in 1941. Wayne won the 103 pound Nebraska State Boxing Championship in 1941. Before he enlisted in the military, he farmed with his dad. He served in the United States Army from 1945 to 1947. He took basic training in Texas and then he was sent to Japan and served with the Headquarters Detachment, 14th Battalion. He received the Asiatic Pacific Campaign and World War II Victory medals. After his honorable discharge, he returned to Sutton, Nebraska.

On June 1, 1947, he married Jeannine Ham and they moved to a farm north and west of Sutton. To this union, three children were born. He farmed and raised cattle until he retired at 65. Wayne and Jeannine moved to Sutton in 1975. After retiring, he was employed by Van Kirk Brothers. Wayne served as a member of the Sutton Public School Board in the mid 1960's. He always enjoyed sports and helped with the American Legion Baseball team for several years. He was a lifetime member of the Sutton American Legion Post #61 for over 60 years and was a past Commander.

Wayne was preceded in death by his father and mother, Wenzell and Nellie Erickson.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Jeannine (Ham) Erickson; son, Dr. Gerald Erickson and wife, Carol (Ulmer) Erickson of Sutton, NE; daughter, Sherry Ebert of Sutton, NE; son, Kevin Erickson of Breckenridge, CO; two granddaughters, Miki (Ebert) Hajny and husband James of Glenvil, NE; Stacy (Erickson) Schutte and husband Troy of Elkhorn, NE; two grandsons, Corey Ebert and wife Traci of Saronville, NE; Kyle Erickson and wife Dana of Kansas City, MO; eight great-grandchildren, Dillon, Caden and Ella Schutte; Jace Hajny; Kellen, Kierra, and Brooks Ebert; and Jake Erickson.

He dearly loved his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Wayne will always be remembered for his generosity (especially during sweet corn season).

Tribute Wall

PH

“ Just read this - my condolences to the family. On our trips home to see my mom, Anna Buttell and sister Jean Cundall, Charlie (my husband) became friends with Wayne. He always looked forward to seeing him when in Sutton. He didn't feel like a stranger in town when with Wayne and other friends he made. Charlie died three years ago, not long after my sister Jean, who's funeral we attended in Sutton. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Peggy (Buttell) Huffman - June 29, 2014 at 10:53 AM

JH

“ I am living in TX and just heard about Wayne. I worked for Wayne about 4 yrs while I was in High School. He treated me like one of the family. Jeannine also treated me like family and boy she could cook! He was a kind man. When I first started working for him he put me on the tractor with a two row corn planter, made one round and said go for it. He only smiled when he seen how crooked the rows turned out. I could go on and on with stories like this. He supported me in my High School sports. He even offered to help me pay for college - I was to young and dumb to take him up on it. I will truly miss him. Thanks Wayne! Joe

Joe Hunzeker - May 08, 2014 at 06:10 PM

GG

“ Wayne Erickson was a great man and did much for me during my high school years and beyond. He for some reason took me under his wing by providing me a steady farming job even into my college years. I'm in retrospect thinking he may have gone out of his way to do this because I had lost my dad at age 14 and he himself had no remembrance of his mother. In any event, he was one of those difference makers in my life.

He did an excellent job of marrying up into the Ham family and he and Jeannine had a wonderful and accomplished family. He had his priorities straight: His God, His Family, His Work, His Town, His School, His overall goodness to his fellow man. He even pulled me out of a ditch one time after a homecoming dance at 1:30 in the morning. Not everyone would do such a thing. After reading his obituary, now I know why he drove to Red Cloud one time to watch me box. Or maybe he lost a bet to Joe Perrella. Whatever. It pained me to be unable to attend this great human being's funeral. I was immensely happy to hear that his military send-off was reverent and perfect. It sounds like the stories told were classics. I can vividly imagine the grin on his face as he looks down on us. God Speed Wayne.

Garth Gemar - May 07, 2014 at 11:26 AM

BH

“ Your family are in our thoughts and Prayers. No matter where you saw Wayne he always made sure he said something to you. He was a good man full of good stories or jokes. Sutton community will miss him a lot!! You have our Sympathy.

Bill and Pam Hofmann - May 02, 2014 at 07:30 PM

CO

“ I am sorry to hear about Wayne's passing. The Sutton class of 1941 is quickly leaving us. I will miss talking to him on Alumni Weekend. Kevin, hang in there and I will talk to you soon at our reunion. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Chelli Perrella Olsen - May 02, 2014 at 01:05 PM

JH

“ Your family is in our prayers. Although he will be missed the memories he left will serve to give strength to those who loved him.

Jim Hultman - May 01, 2014 at 10:41 PM

GM

“ We always enjoyed the times we spent visiting with Wayne and Jeannine. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this time of sorrow.

Gary & Vicki McDonald - May 01, 2014 at 06:47 AM

KH

“ Wayne and I shared so many experiences as we grew up together. He was a dear friend and we shall miss him. Our thoughts will be with you during these sad days.

Keith Ham - April 30, 2014 at 11:05 AM

LL

“ You will be in my thoughts and prayers. I wish I could make the trip to be with you, but I know you understand.

Leonard Loschen - April 30, 2014 at 06:32 AM