

Harold David Petersen, 90, of Burwell, Nebraska died August 18, 2013 at the Valley County Health Systems Hospital.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, August 21, 2013 at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Burwell, Nebraska. Burial will be in Cottonwood Cemetery in Burwell. Pastor Jane Ellefson and Pastor Alan Petersen will officiate. Visitation will be from 5 – 8 p.m. Tuesday at Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell. Memorials are suggested to the Congregational Church, Burwell Community Fund or the Loup County Public School Scholarship Fund.

David was born July 28, 1923 to Harold and Vera (Williams) Petersen. He grew up on his parents' farm in Loup County and attended Rural Elementary School and Taylor High School where he graduated in 1941. He enlisted in the Army Air Force in November of 1942 and was called to active duty in February 1943. He flew a full tour of 35 missions as a B-17 pilot with the 15th Air Force in Italy.

On returning home he married Ruth Ann Jurgensen on April 10, 1946 in Burwell, Nebraska. They farmed and ranched in Loup County for 42 years, retiring to Burwell in 1988. He continued to commute to the farm for many years and enjoyed working in whatever capacity he could help out.

David was civic minded and served on various conservation committees. He believed in preserving the land in the best way possible. He was a member of First Congregational Church, the Masonic Lodge, the Nebraska Farm Bureau, American Legion, and served on local school boards in Loup County.

He was a family man, and enjoyed all the activities which his children and grandchildren were involved in.

David is survived by his wife Ruth Ann Petersen of Burwell, Nebraska, four children: Janice and Rolland White of Broken Bow, Nebraska, Barbara and Jim Coolman of Cameron, Missouri, Alan and Susan Petersen of Burwell, Nebraska, Glen and Judy Petersen of Burwell, Nebraska and a son-in-law, Don Field of Hastings, Nebraska. Also surviving are sixteen grandchildren, twenty-one great-grandchildren, a brother Stanley and wife Amy of Central City, Nebraska, a sister-in-law, Reita Petersen of Burwell, Nebraska, and many nephews and nieces.

David was preceded in death by his parents, his daughter Sharon Field, two brothers, Dallas and his wife Madelon Petersen and Russell Petersen.