



Ivan Earl Ferguson was born to John R. and Susie D. (Reynolds) Ferguson on December 1, 1924 and passed away on October 10, 2017 at the age of 92. He was born on the Ferguson farm 5 miles west of Taylor, Nebraska, the eighth child born of eleven. Ivan started school at a young age and graduated from Taylor High School with the class of 1941. He often told stories of his

growing up years and how he was lucky to have survived them! After graduation, Ivan worked at home on the family farm.

When World War II broke out, Ivan had just turned 17, too young to enlist. However; his number was ultimately called up and he was drafted into the United States Army at 19 being inducted on July 28, 1944. His boot camp was 17 weeks of basic training at Fort Leavenworth, KS. During this time he was trained as a machine gunner, in time, serving as a PFC in the 377th Infantry, 95th Division. After basic training he was put on a troop train headed for Camp Wolters in Mineral Wells, TX. eventually ending up in Boston, MA. where he boarded a ship with the destination being Lehar, France. He told of how cold it was there and how the combat boots that they wore weren't sufficient and he ended up freezing his feet. His time overseas was spent mostly in Germany with some time in France. Ivan was honorably discharged on November 8, 1945.

After returning from his service, he went back to work on the Ferguson farm, working alongside of his father. While there, his dad suffered a stroke and Ivan graciously helped to care for him. Ivan met the love of his life, a young woman from right here in Loup County, Anabel Lee Garner. They were married on May 23, 1948 in Taylor, Nebraska. To this union seven children were born, five boys and two girls: John Lee, James Robert, Janet Sue, Ivan Craig, Rodney Dean, Lu Ann and Bruce Alan. The kids were all born during the time that they were making their living in Loup County. Ivan was never afraid of a hard day of work, most mornings milking the cows before the sun came up, jumping in a truck and hauling cattle wherever he was called and getting home long after the sun set. He did whatever it took to provide for his family. In 1969 Ivan was offered a farm manager position at the Lazy AB Ranch in Keya Paha County. This was a big change, but Ivan seized the opportunity and moved his family up North. They made their home on the Lazy AB Ranch for many years and also bought a house in town for convenience while the kids were involved in school activities. For several years, Ivan also worked with his sons in Keya Paha County before fulfilling a life-long dream of his and Anabel's, purchasing land in Loup County. Ivan always joked that he owned land in "Beverly Hills", as that was the name of the development area where they purchased their acreage. It was here that their 50th wedding anniversary was celebrated in the summer of 1998 with family, friends and neighbors. Family was always a very high priority to Ivan and Anabel and they made every effort to make it to each of their grandkids various activities, if at all possible. He loved to watch and care for the birds that came and went and would tell you of the different species and details that his eyes didn't miss. He shared this love with his grandkids and great grandkids, often times paging through a bird book as they sat on his lap or stood near. Ivan was a member of the American Legion Post 98, Springview, NE; VFW Post 6159, Taylor, NE and Calvary United Methodist Church, Taylor. He was a Boy Scout Leader of Troop 82 in Keya Paha Co. for several years and was the recipient of the Ak-Sar-Ben Good Neighbor Award for his work with the Scouts.

Ivan is survived by his seven children, John and wife Lucy Ferguson of Orchard; Jim and wife Mae Ferguson of Springview; Janet Ward of Billings, Montana; Craig and wife Roma Ferguson of Hastings; Dean and wife Janet Ferguson of Springview; LuAnn Brown of Kearney and Bruce and wife Vicki Ferguson of Springview, twenty-one grandchildren, twenty-six great-grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren and a brother, Larry and wife Sally Ferguson of Boulder, Colorado. Also brothers and sisters-in-law, Richard (Dick) and Caroline Garner, Dan and Shirley Garner, sisters-in-law Jean Harden, Jan Garner, Jeanette Ferguson and Joan Ferguson, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Ivan was preceded in death by wife, Anabel, parents John and Susie Ferguson, seven brothers, Lloyd, Leroy (in infancy) Miles, Erwin, Wayne, Royce and Gerald Ferguson and two sisters, Erma Hayhurst and Isla Emerton. Brothers-in-law Wayne Jarvis, Al Peterson, Meryl Hayhurst, Robert Bohy, Herb Emerton, Charlie Harden, Tom Garner and Chuck Phillips; sisters-in-law Vera Ferguson, Doris Ferguson, Laura Ferguson, Celia Ferguson, Ione Ferguson, Lavonne Ferguson and Betty Phillips.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m., Saturday, October 14, 2017 at the United Methodist Church in Burwell, Nebraska. Burial will be in the Taylor Cemetery at Taylor, Nebraska. Pastor Dennis Davenport will officiate. Visitation will be Friday from 5 -7 p.m. at Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell. Memorials are suggested to the Taylor Methodist Church or the Taylor VFW.