

NO PHOTO Burtis, LaVon Dean

Imperial, NE

382nd Inf Co I

LaVon Dean Burtis was born in northwest Chase County on April 25, 1925 to George and Neva Kimberling Burtis.

He attended grade school at District 6 and one year at CCHS.

He was the oldest boy of seven children and returned to help on the farm.

Dean served in the U.S. Army from Sept. 15, 1944 to Dec. 3, 1946. He was in the 382nd Infantry Regiment as a machine gunner and served one year and seven months overseas where he was wounded in Okinawa.

He qualified for many awards some included the Pacific Campaign Award, Ribbon Bronze Star, Purple Heart, World War II Victory Medal, Philippine Liberation, Philippine Independence Ribbon and the Presidential Unit Citation for Extraordinary Heroism to the 96th Infantry Division.

He was a lifetime member of the Deadeye 96th Division WWII Association and attended several of their reunions.

The VA presented him his CCHS diploma Nov. 11, 1999. This was in honor of those who were called and served in WWII.

Dean and Roma Jean Harris were married Jan. 10, 1948 at the United Methodist Church at Imperial. They celebrated their 57th anniversary. To this union one son LaVern Gene Burtis and one daughter Sylvia Jo were born.

They lived in Grant for five years where Dean had employment with the Co-op. In 1953 they moved to the farm 17 miles northwest of Imperial where he was involved in farming and operated a cow-calf and hog operation.

Dean was a Dekalb seed corn salesman and did electrical work in his spare time.

He retired and moved to Imperial in 2001.

Dean was baptized at the Champion Lake and became a member of the Chase EUB Church in 1937. He transferred to the Grant Methodist Church and later joined the United Methodist Church in Imperial where his commitments and priorities have been. His fellowship in the church was special to him.

Dean was a lifetime member of the VFW which he served a term as commander and also was on the extension board; was chairman of the 4-H Council and organized a 4-H club in our community. He was an active fair board member, served on the District 6 school board, was elected to the Frenchman Valley Co-op Board as well as ASC committee and was a Lions Club member.

He did some woodwork as a hobby and was involved in several carpenter jobs.

He belonged to the CC Stompers Square Dance and enjoyed dancing. Dean learned to play golf after retirement and enjoyed the Senior League at Imperial Country Club. He enjoyed playing pitch with friends.

Dean Burtis passed away Sunday, Oct. 2, 2005, at the Chase County Community Hospital in Imperial. He was 80 years old.

Dean was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Robert and Hubert Burtis, brothers-in-law Charles Read and Roland Taylor, sister-in-law Maxine Burtis and son-in-law Joel Smith.

Dean is survived by his loving wife Roma Jean of Imperial; a son LaVern Gene Burtis and wife Carolyn of Oberlin, Kan.; a daughter Sylvia Jo Smith of Auburn; four grandchildren Troy Burtis of Nashville, Tenn. and Matthew, Nicole and Meredith Smith of Auburn; three step grandchildren; two sisters Elva Read of Limon, Colo. and Leona Taylor of Sheridan, Wyo.; two brothers Donald of Sheridan, Wyo. and Ralph and wife Lucille of Tracy, Calif.; one sister-in-law Dona June Ekart and husband Jack; many nieces, nephews and friends.

Family and friends join the Burtis family in sharing the loss of their loved one.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2005 at 2 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Imperial, Neb. with Pastor Kay Alnor officiating.

Pianist was Mrs. Marcia Bauerle and soloists were Irvin and Garneta Bauerle.

Casketbearers were John Osler, Stanley Smith, Merlin Castle, Jack Claney, Larry Schilke and Orville Kunnemann.

Military rites were by the VFW Post #4688, Imperial.

Interment was at Mount Hope Cemetery, Imperial, Neb. Liewer Funeral