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10/25/2013 - John D. Paulsen

Memorial services for John Paulsen, age 85, of Crawford will be on Friday, October 25, 2013 at 2:00 PM at the Crawford United Methodist Church with Reverend George Kilmer officiating.

John Dean Paulsen went to Glory on Oct. 10, 2013, at age 85. His wife of 60 years, Betty Lou (Kaiser) Paulsen, was by his side.

A memorial fund has been established to help others in need. Donations may be sent to Chamberlain Chapel, PO Box 970, Chadron, NE 69337

John was born Jan. 20, 1928, in Loup City, Nebraska, to Hedevig Kristine (Jensen) and John Rosinius Paulsen, a farmer and bricklayer.

He graduated from Loup City High School in 1945. He served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps from Feb. 7, 1951, to Jan. 23, 1953, after which he transferred to the Army Reserve. He was honorably discharged in April 1957.

He helped keep the lights on for Nebraska residents from 1947 to 1989 as an employee of the Nebraska Public Power District. He began in Loup City as a groundman, and was promoted through lineman and first-class serviceman to local superintendent in Scotia in 1961. He served in that same capacity in Minatare and Crawford before being named local manager in Crawford, Rushville and again in Crawford.

John was skilled with his hands. His wood-carved caricatures are well-known in Crawford and elsewhere, and he could fix just about anything. After his NPPD retirement, he worked for a local hardware store and electrician, took part in beet harvests, drove Jeep tours at Fort Robinson and spent several summers with Betty at Custer State Park in South Dakota, where he worked on the carpentry crew.

He was deeply involved in community activities such as the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Methodist Church, choir, Crawford Community Players and the Volunteer Fire Department.

He and Betty were married Sept. 20, 1953, in Loup City.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his sisters, Anna Irene Paulsen and Faye Gerda Paulsen Bensen.

Most important to John was his relationship with God through Jesus. He spent much of his life studying the Bible and serving others.

Immediate Survivors:

Wife: Betty, of Crawford;

Children: Mark Jon Paulsen of Bayard, Lori Jean (Paul) Sauser of Rapid City, Jeri Lynn (Keith) Youngs of Ogallala, and Barbra Jo Paulsen of Grand Island; former daughter-in-law Kay Paulsen of Lincoln

Grandchildren: Erik (Megan) Paulsen, Adam (Kristen) Paulsen, Anna (Kevin) Schuh, Will Sauser, Drew (Nate) Krizek and Blair Youngs;

Great-Grandchildren: Sage Heather Paulsen and Lennon James Paulsen; and niece Norma (Richard) Weaver.

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Online condolences can be made at www.chamberlainchapel.com.

Chamberlain Chapel of Crawford is in charge of arrangements for John Paulsen.