



Elmer Eggimann

October 7, 2012

Memorial services for Elmer Eggimann, 89, of Jefferson, will be 11:00am Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at First Presbyterian Church in Jefferson. Visitation with the family will be Tuesday, October 9, 2012 from 5:30 – 8:00pm at Slininger-Rossow Funeral Home in Jefferson. Private family interment will take place at the Jefferson Cemetery.

Elmer Eggimann, 89, devoted husband, father, and grandfather, died Sunday, October 7, 2012 at Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines, IA in the company of his family after a brief respiratory illness.

Elmer was born at home on the family farm August 26, 1923 in Boardman Township, Clayton County, IA. After graduating from Elkader High School in 1941, he joined his father and uncle to begin a life of farming, a vocation that he never left, although it was interrupted many times.

He left the farm in 1942 to enroll at Iowa State College. In February 1943 he enlisted in the Marine Corps. He served in the Pacific Theater, was wounded twice, and invaded Iwo Jima with the second wave. In 1945 he married his childhood sweetheart, Erneva Seifert, who was his loving wife for 67 years.

Elmer graduated from Iowa State with a degree in Animal Husbandry in 1949, and Elmer and Neva returned to the farm until 1951, when he became the Extension Agent in Jasper County.

In June, 1952, he became the Greene County Extension Agent. That began a 60-year career of service to community, profession, and church in Jefferson.

Elmer and Neva have been members of First Presbyterian Church in Jefferson for 60 years. Elmer was a man of strong and abiding faith. He served as an elder, deacon, Sunday School teacher, and in any other capacity in which he was asked by his church.

In all of the professional capacities in which Elmer served during his life, his interest in and devotion to farming was a constant theme. He was owner of Eggimann Realty, which handled residential, commercial, and farm properties. In 1967 he was President of the Iowa Chapter #2 of the National Institute of Farm & Land Brokers. He later joined the Brenton Bank as farm loan officer.

Elmer served his community in many capacities, including as Mayor of Jefferson. He was a member of numerous boards over the years; most notably he was Chairman of the Greene County Hospital Board and, at the time of his death, a member of the Greene County Medical Center Foundation Board. He was a 60-year member of the Jefferson Rotary Club, as well as a past President and a Paul Harris Fellow.

Over the years with friends and family, Elmer pursued his love of agriculture and farming by raising livestock and even doing some small-scale farming. Elmer was a lifelong gardener, a Master Gardener, and a noted rosarian, serving at one time as President of the Iowa Rose Society.

But the greatest joy of Elmer's life was his family. He was a fixture at Jefferson-Scranton school events, first with his son and daughter, then with his grandchildren. Most recently, he was an enthusiastic attendant at the school events of his great-grandchildren in Waukee. Elmer and Neva extended their family to include Katie Skold, Jefferson's 1968-69 AFS student, who with her family continues to be a part of the Eggimann family.

Elmer was preceded in death by his parents, Fred & Freda Eggimann, and his brother Ervon. He is survived by his wife Erneva, his sister Erma Hildahl, Hannibal, MO; his son Steven (Dianne), Tucson, AZ; and daughter Kathy Lane (Tom), Des Moines; grandchildren Mark Lane (Carla), Waukee; Kelly Lane, Colorado Springs; and Darcy Lane, Des Moines; and great-grandchildren Savannah, Will, and Calhoun Lane.

Memorials are suggested to First Presbyterian Church or the Greene County Medical Center Foundation.