

Russel W. Pagel
Aug 25, 1929 – Feb. 12, 2000

Sumner – Funeral services for Russel W. Pagel will be held at 10:30a.m. Wednesday, Feb, 16, 2000, at the United Methodist Church, Sumner, with the Rev. John Battern officiating. Burial will be in Union United Methodist Church Cemetery, rural Sumner. Military Rites will be by Thomas E. Woods American Legion Post #223, Sumner.

Pagel, 70, of Sumner, died Saturday, Feb 12, 2000, at St Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, after a sudden illness.

Russel Pagel was born Aug. 25, 1929 in rural Fayette County, the son of Walter C. and Phyllis Gertrude Kohlmeyer Pagel. He was baptized and confirmed at the Union Evangelical United Brethren Church, rural Sumner. He graduated from Sumner High School in 1947.

During high school, Russel was the 1946 Upper Iowa Conference Outstanding Defensive Player in football. He also lettered in baseball, was one of the Gold Dust twins, and later played on the Westgate Softball Team.

Russel joined the United States Navy in January of 1951 and served aboard a patrol frigate, the *U.S.S. Bayonne*, during the Korean Conflict. He was honorably discharged in May of 1952.

He was united in marriage with Joan Elaine Thompson on June 15, 1952. She preceded him in death of June 16, 1980. Russel was then united in marriage with Linda Jane Miles on December 30, 1981.

Russel stated farming in 1952. In the late '50s he purchased the family farm from Frank Hardy in a 50/50 partnership. Mr. Hardy supplied 12 Guernsey cows and Russel's mother supplied 12 Holstein cows and 12 sows. In 1955, Russel was given the Outstanding Young Farmer Award by the Oelwein Junior Chamber of Commerce. He was the Fayette County Distinguished Dairyman in 1978 and the Iowa Distinguished Dairyman in 1977. He developed one of the top producing herds in Iowa for the past 25 years. His herds were the top producers in 1977, 1978, 1980, and 1981 and were the top fat producers for five consecutive years, 1977-1981. The Pagel Herd has been the recipient of the Progressive Breeder Registry for 15 years.

Russel was a member of the Sumner United Methodist Church and has served on my committees. He was a former member of Union United Methodist Church, rural Sumner, where he was the Sunday School Superintendent and a Sunday School Teacher.

He has been a member of the county and state DHIA Boards and had been a Director of AMPI for over 25 years. Russel enjoyed raising miniature horses, hunting (deer and pheasant). Showing cattle, 4-H, and socializing. He was especially proud of the fact that he had won a Most Beautiful Baby Contest as a child.

Russel is survived by his wife, Linda, Sumner; his children and their families, Deborah and Dave Benton, Neenah, WI; Michael and Jody Pagel, Cedar Rapids; Gregory and Peggy Pagel, Sumner; Natalie and David Steenson, Des Moines; Jeffrey Miles, Marion; and Joel and Amy Pagel, Sumner; 10 grandchildren; four brothers and five sisters-in-law, Peggy Pagel, Donald and Donna Pagel, Albert and Jean Pagel, August and Joyce Pagel, Roger Pagel, and Diane Pagel, all of Sumner; his mother-in-law, Ella Miles, Riceville; and many special family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Joan; one daughter, Theresa, who died in 1956; and two brother, Duane, in 1997 and Lyle.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2000, at Becker-Milnes funeral Home in Sumner, and one hour before services at the church on Wednesday. Becker-Milnes Funeral Home of Sumner was in charge of arrangements.