

Briles, Herschel

d. 7-17-1994

WW II hero Herschel Briles dies at age 80

By **DARRAGH JOHNSON**

REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Herschel F. "Pete" Briles, 80, who during World War II won the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for heroism, died of a heart ailment Sunday at his home in Mitchellville.

Staff Sgt. Briles was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry in action near Scherpenseel, Germany, in November 1944 for



Briles
Rescued two

rescuing two wounded men from a burning tank destroyer and for unleashing "such deadly (machine gun) fire into the enemy that an entire pocket of 55 Germans surrendered, clearing the way for a junction between American units that had been held up for two days."

Services will be at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at Mitchellville United Methodist Church, with burial at Waveland Cemetery in Prairie City.

Mr. Briles was born in Colfax and moved to Mitchellville 11 years ago after living in Ankeny and Colfax. He was a retired farmer and co-owner of Colfax Livestock Sales Co. An Army veteran, he was a member of Colfax American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Congressional Medal of Honor Society and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Among survivors are his wife, Wilma; three sons, James of Ankeny, Jerry of Prairie City and Randy of Omaha; a sister, Dot Polodna of Prairie du Chien, Wis.; and seven grandchildren.

Friends may call after noon today at Walters-Coburn Funeral Home in Colfax, where the family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the church or Hospice of Central Iowa.

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