

Gander, Dean C. d. 4-17-2005

DEAN C. GANDER

Ankeny



Dean C. Gander, 68, died of cancer Sunday, April 17, 2005 at Mercy Hospital Medical Center in Des Moines. Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 20 at Hamilton's near Highland Memory Gardens, 121 NW 60th Ave. in Des Moines.

Maxwell Masonic Lodge will conduct a special service at 7:30 p.m. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Thursday, April 21 at the Christian Church in Maxwell, with burial to follow at the Elkhart Cemetery.

Dean was born in Guthrie County, Iowa on June 9, 1936. He was the oldest of five children born to Carrol and Helena Gander. Dean was raised on a farm near Yale, Iowa and attended a country school there. He later attended High School in Panora, Iowa and enjoyed playing sports, especially football and baseball.

Dean was united in marriage to Mildred (Millie) Davis on May 5, 1956 and to this union was born two sons, Ron and Chris.

Dean played fast pitch softball in the 1960's with the Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Catholic Church in Ankeny and pitched with the Elkhart Men's Softball Team. Dean was an avid fisherman and

always enjoyed fishing with his sons, grandsons, and the special fishing trips to Canada with dear friends. Dean owned a small welding shop in Panora for a few years and then began working for John Deere in January 1959, retiring in 1987. While working at John Deere, Dean enjoyed farming land he had purchased near Maxwell. After retiring, he turned a catering hobby into a large business and many have enjoyed his cooking skills.

Dean was a member of the Panora Masonic Lodge, the Maxwell Masonic Lodge, the Des Moines Consistory and the Za-Ga-Zig Shrine. He served on the Maxwell Community School Board from 1974 to 1982, serving as president for two years. Dean served on the board of the John Deere Credit Union from 1962 to 1974, and was also a member of the Polk County Charter Commission since 1983.

Dean is survived by his wife, Millie; his son, Ron (JoAnn) of Maxwell and their children Jennifer, Benjamin and Michael; his son, Chris (Ann) of Owatonna, MN, and their children Corey and Ryan; his brother, Delbert of Kilduff; and three sisters, Betty (Duane) Tingwald of Bouton, Dee Martinson of Altoona and Beverly Pritchard of Polk City.

Dean was preceded in death by his parents, Helena and Carrol Gander.

Dean was an avid supporter of the Shriner's Crippled Children's Hospital and was very active during the Iowa State Fair in collecting donations to support this cause. Therefore, in lieu of flowers the family requests memorial contributions be made to the Shriner's Crippled Children's Hospital.

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