

Orval Eikenhorst  
May 20, 2017 (0)

OSCEOLA — Orval Eikenhorst, a longtime Osceola resident, died Thursday, May 18, 2017, at Monarch House in Lincoln.

Orval was born June 14, 1922, in rural Seward County to Carl and Elsie (Baumbach) Eikenhorst. He graduated from Seward High School in 1940.

Orval and Bernice K. Schildt were married in Seward on July 15, 1944, and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2004 shortly before Bernice died. Orval and Bernice had four children, Kathy, Joel, Steven and Sue.

Orval started working for the USDA in April 1945 and moved that year to Osceola. In April 1954 he quit the USDA and started a farm services business in Osceola, drilling irrigation wells, selling Ford farm machinery, seed corn and fertilizer. He retired from this business in 1985.



Orval was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Osceola, where he served on the church board as chairman. He also served on the Osceola City Council and Osceola School Board, was treasurer for the Big Blue Natural Resources Board and served for many years as treasurer of the Polk County Republican Party. Orval was named an Admiral in the Nebraska Navy by Governor Brooks for his work with the Boy Scouts.

Orval and Bernice enjoyed traveling and had visited all 50 states. They spent their winters in South Texas beginning in 1980 and thought of it as their second home.

Orval married Esther Reinholdt of LeMars, Iowa, on Jan 6, 2006 in Pharr, Texas.

Orval was preceded in death by his parents, wife Bernice, sister Verna Plautz and her husband Vern, brother-in-law Melvin Schildt and his wife Viola, brother-in-law Harold Schildt, son-in-law Clark Will, daughter-in-law Karen Eikenhorst, and infant grandson Daniel Eikenhorst.

He is survived by his children Kathy Will of Lincoln, Joel Eikenhorst of Lakewood Ranch, Florida, Steven (Pam) Eikenhorst of Osceola, and Sue (Mark) Kramer of Lincoln, 8 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Monday, May 22, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Osceola with Pastor Dan Cloeter officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Organist will be Carita Willits. Congregation hymns will be "Children of the Heavenly Father" and "Softly and Tenderly." Pallbearers will be Orval's grandchildren. Interment will be in Osceola Cemetery.

Dubas Funeral Home of Osceola and Stromsburg has been entrusted with arrangements.

Memorials are suggested to the family.

Source: <http://columbustelegram.com/news/local/obituaries/orval-eikenhorst>