

BRECHT, HARRY HERMAN

October 29, 1925-February 5, 2008

A memorial service for Harry Herman Brecht, 82, was conducted on Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008, at the Memorial Baptist Church in Wheatland, Wyo., with Pastor Craig Cagle officiating. Inurnment was in the Wheatland Cemetery.

Harry died Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008 at the Platte County Memorial Nursing Home in Wheatland.

He was born Oct. 29, 1925 in Evanston, Illinois, the son of John J. and Ethyl (Swanson) Brecht. As a youth, he moved with his family to Wheatland where his father farmed for many years. In 1943, at age 17, he joined the Marine Corps. He went through boot camp at Camp Pendleton in San Diego, California. From there, he was part of the "Island Hopping" Campaign to retake the Pacific Islands from the Japanese. He was part of the invasions of Guadalcanal and Peleliu. He was injured during his service and received the Purple Heart. After the Japanese surrendered, he was sent to Beijing, China to guard an oil refinery. Harry married Mildred Schreyer on April 24, 1949, in Wheatland, and they raised three children, Dan, Vicki and David. Other than a brief move to Barstow, California in 1964, he remained in Wheatland until his death. Harry enjoyed several business ventures over the years, including partnering with his brother, John, in a service station; owning and managing a pool hall; and operating a used furniture store with his wife. One of Harry's greatest pleasures in life was listening to his youngest son, David, play guitar and sing. He also enjoyed traveling to Las Vegas, fishing and people watching.

Survivors included two children, Dan Brecht and Vicki Mickelson and husband, Mick; a sister, Arlene Wilhelm, all of Wheatland; five grandchildren, Levi Mickelson, Erin Coates, Abby Mickelson and Libby Mickelson, all of Wheatland and Zach Brecht of Chycenne; and four great grandchildren, all of Wheatland.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Mildred of 49 years, on June 29, 1997; a son David on September 27, 2005; and a brother, John.