



Louis "Freddie" Voss

October 9, 1928 - July 18, 2012

The family of Louis "Freddie" Wayne Voss is proud to celebrate the life of an extraordinary man. Freddie passed into the presence of the Lord on July 18, 2012. He took his first breath at his family home in Cedar Township, Pocahontas County, Iowa, south of Varina on October 9, 1928. He was the son of Bill and Edla (Porath) Voss. He attended the Varina Consolidated School until his father asked him to help on the family farm. Freddie was drafted into the Army on February 20, 1951 and served his country during the Korean War, stationed in Germany. He was honorably discharged in February of 1953. He returned to the family farm and later married the love of his life, Gayla Margene Peterson on August 2, 1959 in Newell. He always loved the farm and started working with his family at an early age. He was an extraordinarily hard worker and enjoyed every minute of it. He had 50 brown swiss dairy cows and milked them until all milk went to Grade A. Then he went back to raising beef cattle and hogs. He dearly loved his cow/calf herd. Having three sons made his family complete. He was a strong man who led his family with love and a quiet faith. His sons enjoyed working along side him as much as he enjoyed working with them. They worked cattle, did chores, walked beans, and put up acres of hay together. After a hard day of work, they would take time to play and ride horses and go to saddle club together. Growing up next to Sunken Grove, Freddie enjoyed trapping and taught his sons to trap. He always made sure that God was the center of their lives and attended church with them. He and Gayla taught them the importance of character and

hard work and were proud of their accomplishments. He also enjoyed helping others. He took his draft horses and helped at the Albert City Threshermen Shows until his health declined. He also commemorated traditional farming methods by volunteering with his draft horses at the Wiegert Prairie Farmstead. For a number of years, he and the family would give weekly covered wagon rides at the Twin Lakes Bible Camp. He raised and broke draft horses, first with his father and brother, and then with his wife and sons. He enjoyed working the gentle beasts and, if given a chance, would rather take a team of draft horses to the field than a tractor. He also had a love for raising good cattle and had a reputation for topping the market on sale day, making the family proud. He loved the land on which he was born and was a steward of the soil. He rotated his crops, always having fields of alfalfa, making the soils loose and fertile. His goal was to leave the land better than when he started. His caring ways can best be demonstrated by recounting how he farmed. When he disked, cultivated or mowed hay, he would raise the implement he was pulling and go around the pheasants, ducks, or killdeer, never wanting to harm them. He was a gentle man with a soft heart. Freddie and Gayla were inseparable and were devoted partners for nearly 53 years. He was a constant source of inspiration to his wife, children, and those who knew him. He was grateful for his life and took one day at a time always giving joy to others even as his body grew weaker. He had a never-give-up attitude, giving strength to his family. His will to survive amazed everyone. He was quiet and shy and preferred to be home on the farm with his family. In the past he was a member of the Pocahontas County Historical Society, the Albert City Threshermen and the Wiegert Prairie Farmstead, and was active with the Buena Vista County Saddle Club and the Fonda Saddle Club. Failing health kept him from being active for some time before his passing. He was a member of the Newell Bethel Baptist Church and the Varina Legion W.D. Steiner Post. Preceding Freddie in death were his parents, William and Edla (Porath) Voss; three siblings who died in infancy, Raymond, Marjorie, and Lois; and sister, Helen (Voss) Erie. Also preceding him in death were his

father- and mother-in-law, Gladwin and Thelma (Schroeder) Peterson; and brothers-in-law Lyle Peterson, Don Larsen, and Louis Erie. Left to cherish his memory is his wife of fifty-three years. Left to carry on his legacy are his sons Steven (Kendra) Voss of Hannibal, MO; William (Laurie) Voss of Fonda, IA; and Rodney (Wendy) Voss of Huron, SD; his grandchildren Caleb, Beth, Zachary, Nathanael, Adam, Abby, Nikolas and Matthew Voss; and his two great-grandsons Colton and Stetson Voss. Surviving siblings include brother Milton (Karen) Voss of Fonda and sister Marie (Donald) Breon of Fonda, many nephews and nieces, and a sister-in-law, Sue Peterson of Kettering, Ohio.