

Russell Dean Bell



Russell Dean Bell was born February 9, 1945, in Clarksville, Iowa, the youngest of three boys born to John and Ena Bell. Russ graduated from high school in St. Ansgar, Iowa, in 1963, then moved to Cedar Falls to start working at John Deere.

Russ married Sandra Stromley on Sept. 19, 1964, and they made their home in Hudson, Iowa. Russ served on the Hudson Volunteer Fire Department for 36 years. He joined the department in February, 1969, and was fire chief for 16 of the years he served. He was the longest active member in the history of the department. On April 7, 2005, he was honored with the Distinguished Lifetime Member Award. Russ was also an active member of the Grundy County Honor Guard and was a social member of the Hudson AMVETS Post 82.

After 35 years of working at John Deere, Russ retired in November, 1998. His love of working outdoors led him to a retirement job at Oakleaf Country Club in Reinbeck, Iowa. He became the grounds supervisor in 2000. Russ enjoyed farming with his dad and brothers as a boy and young man. He also enjoyed fishing, years of gardening, cooking and socializing with friends.

Russ is survived by hi wife, Sandy; three daughters, Renae Wason of Dunkerton, IA, Sue (Dave) Pearl of Aston, PA, and Karen (Chad) Smith of Waterloo; six grandchildren, Shelbe, Hunter, and Landon Wason, Zachary Pearl, and Parker and Brody Smith; two brothers, Harlan Bell of Cedar Falls, and Jim (Nancy) Bell of St. Ansgar; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Jim (Diane) Stromley of Broomfield, CO; four nieces and one nephew.

Russ was precede in death by his parents.