

Rohlfs, Gleason D.

Gleason D. Rohlfs, 91, of Bad Axe, passed away Monday, Nov. 2, 2009 at Huron Medical Center in Bad Axe.

He was born Oct. 4, 1918 near Akron, son of the late Arthur H. and Iva (Smith) Rohlfs.

Mr. Rohlfs grew up on the family farm near Akron. He graduated from Fairgrove High School in 1936. He was named an FFA State Farmer and had been an active 4-H Club member.

He married Julia S. Bolla of Cass City in 1942. She preceded him in death in 1993. In 1994, he married Helen M. Nugent of Bad Axe.

After graduating from Michigan State University with a degree in agronomy, he served as an infantryman in the U.S. Army 2nd Infantry Division, and was wounded in action on Aug. 14, 1944 during the Battle of Normandy. He was awarded the purple heart.

After recovering from his wounds, he was discharged from the army at Percy Jones General Hospital in Battle Creek on May 4, 1945. In July of 1945, he joined the MSU Cooperative Extension Service as the District 4-H Club agent for Lapeer, Sanilac and St. Clair Counties. On Dec. 1, 1946, he became the Associate County Agricultural Agent in Huron County. In 1957, he joined the U.S. Department of State Foreign Assistance Program as an agricultural advisor, serving in Korea, Iran, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam. He retired in 1980 from the Washington D.C. Department of State Agricultural office of the Asian Bureau.

Mr. Rohlfs was presented the highest Agricultural Award from the President of Korea for his contributions to Korean agriculture. He assisted to initiate the Dairy Cattle Artificial Insemination Program, the National Korean 4-H Club, and the agricultural land bench terracing.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Rohlfs of Bad Axe; three sons, Ronald (Pam) Rohlfs of Texas, Arthur (Cindy) Rohlfs of Virginia, and Kim Rohlfs of Virginia; one daughter, Gaynelle and her husband, Alexander, of Colorado; three stepsons, Gary (June) Nugent of Bad Axe, Howard (Ann) Nugent of Alaska, and Clark (Beverly) Nugent of Ann Arbor; and four step-daughters, Nancy (William) Denbrock of Bad Axe, Jan Nugent of Bad Axe, Nicki (Steve) Williams of Caro, and Patti (Michael) Grenko of Washington. He also is survived by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In keeping with his wishes, there will be no visitation or service. Cremation has taken place at Sunset Valley Crematory in Bay City.

Memorials may be made to Huron Medical Care Facility in Bad Axe. Arrangements by the Kaufman Funeral Home in Bad Axe.