

Joseph “Joe” B. Harper, 92 of Colo, died Monday, June 6, 2022, at the Israel Family Hospice House in Ames.

A visitation will be 4-6 p.m. Friday, June 10, 2022, at Rasmusson-Ryan Funeral Home (1418 Fawcett Pkwy) in Nevada. A celebration of Joe’s life will be 11 a.m. Saturday, June 11, 2022, at the Colo United Methodist Church (602 4th Street) in Colo. The service will be livestreamed and can be viewed on the Colo United Methodist Church Facebook page. Private burial will be at the Colo Cemetery in Colo.

Joe was born January 11, 1930, in Ames, Iowa the son of Harlan and Joan (Parsons) Harper. He graduated from Milford High School in 1947 and was united in marriage to Phyllis M. Robinson on June 9, 1950, in Lewis Iowa. Joe furthered his education at Iowa State University, graduating with a degree in Ag Education. He later earned his Master’s degree from Iowa State University.

Following Joe’s graduation from college, he worked as a swine herdsman. He was an officer in the Duroc Association, on both the national and state level. Joe bred Duroc hogs until he and Phyllis moved into Colo. Joe acted as the Swine Superintendent at the Iowa State Fair and was an auctioneer of purebred hogs. He was the Vocational Ag instructor at Colo High School for many years and served as head of the Ag Business Department at DMACC.

Joe loved the community of Colo. He was a charter member of the Colo Lions Club and was instrumental in the restoration of the historic Reed-Niland Corner. Joe was very active in the Colo United Methodist Church.

Joe was an avid fan of the Iowa State Cyclones and he was very supportive of the Iowa State Alumni Association.

Joe is survived by his children: Doug (Becki) Harper of Oconomowoc, WI, Barbara (Joel) Johnson of Ames and Linda (Mark) Boshart of Mt. Pleasant; his grandchildren: Haley (Tim) Schmidt, Hyatt (Melanie) Harper, Riley (Megan) Harper, Marcus (Lori) Johnson, Kelly (Mike) Hadfield, Brian Johnson, Katie (Chris) Noll and Amy (John) Tyson; his great-grandchildren: Viola, Julia and Henry Schmidt, Ruby and Rhett Harper, Ryan and Jared Story, Emily (Chandler) Naff, Jacob and Matthew Hadfield, Bailey (Jordan) Mundy, Ethan, Andrew and Lydia Noll, Levi and Asher Tyson; his great-great grandson, Carter Mundy; and his sisters, Mary Lackore of Goshen, IN and Karel (Jerry) Hedrick of Fairfield, CA. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Phyllis in 2016, four brothers; one sister; and two great-grandchildren, Jonathan and Grace Johnson.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made the Colo United Methodist Church or the Story County Fair.

Rasmusson-Ryan Funeral Home in Nevada is handling arrangements. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.rasmussonfh.com