

Juel Arthur Kolbo

Decorated World War II Veteran, Juel A. Kolbo, died February 11, 2000 at St. Lukes Hospital in Aberdeen.

His funeral was held Tuesday, February 15, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Aberdeen, with Pastor Allan Schoonover and Pastor Ron Jensen officiating with the Aberdeen American Legion/Veterans of Foreign Wars Honor Guard.

Burial was in the Groton Union Cemetery with full military rites by the Groton American Legion Honor Guard. Miller-Huebl Funeral Home of Aberdeen was in charge of arrangements.

Juel Arthur Kolbo was born on June 13, 1924 to John H. and Anna (Rasmussen) Kolbo in Langford. He attended Langford public school and on June 4, 1943 he enlisted in the Army. Following basic training at Camp Roberts, Calif., he was sent to Ft. Ord for further combat training and was part of the amphibious 7th Infantry Division. After spending nearly 80 days on board ship, he saw his initial combat on the Philippine Islands. On April 1, 1945, the Division hit the beach head of Okinawa. During the intense combat, Juel was injured on June 12, 1945 by an enemy grenade. He spent the next seven months undergoing surgeries and therapy and on January 19, 1946 he received his honorable discharge, his bronze stars and purple heart. He returned to Groton, where he worked for his parents who had started the Kolbo Dairy plant.

On March 6, 1949 he married Eunice Edna Herron at the James Lutheran Church at James. To their marriage they had three children. Rae (Dennis) Nelson of Aberdeen, Monte (Cindy) Kolbo of Canistota, S.D., and Larry (Margo) Kolbo of Bismarck. In early 1954 Juel and Eunice opened the Kolbo Dari-Bar and Creamery in Groton. The business expanded to become Juel's Cafe and Anchor Room and Kolbo Brothers Produce. In 1970 they began the Juel Egg Co., with egg processing and sales. Juel was also in partnership and extended the business with production of 34,000 laying hens in Groton. Sales expanded into the tri-state area and a portion of Colorado. In 1979 he expanded by building a production facility near Bismarck housing 50,000 birds. He continued in business until his retirement in 1986.

Juel had a special passion for his lake cottage at Enemy Swim Lake. His nearly fifty years of summers at the lake offered Juel and Eunice time with family and friends. So much so that he referred to neighbors as his "Lake Family." Juel loved dogs and could always be seen with his dog either in the boat or next to him in the car. He was especially proud of his ten grandchildren, and just recently had become a great-grandfather.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, one sister and his wife.

He is survived by his sister, Frances Cameron of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, his three children, his ten grandchildren, one great-granddaughter and his special friend, Ruth Bonnet.

Casketbearers were Clark Craig of Watertown; David Abeln, Mike Grieben and Doug Olson, Aberdeen; Steve Herron and Bill McKiver, Groton.

Honorary pallbearers were Ole Tastad, Watertown; Kleng Olson, Aberdeen, his coffee buddies and all of his friends that knew and loved him.