



James R. Clabaugh, 86, of Burwell, Nebraska finished the race August 29, 2016 at Community Memorial Health Center in Burwell, Nebraska.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday, September 1, 2016 at the United Methodist Church in Burwell. Pastor Dennis Davenport will officiate. Visitation will be Wednesday from 5 -7 p.m. at Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell. Burial will be in Cottonwood Cemetery in Burwell. Memorials are suggested to the Burwell Color Guard or the Burwell United Methodist Church.

Jim was born April 2, 1930 in Garfield County Nebraska to John W. and Artie (Freeman) Clabaugh. He was the youngest of nine children.

Jim grew up north of Burwell and attended rural school at Rose Hill school.

Jim helped on the family farm until he enlisted in the United States Army in February of 1952. He served during the Korean War in the Headquarters of the 169th Infantry 43rd Division in Germany. He was honorably discharged in 1954.

After the service he returned to farming with his brother, Pete, on the family farm north of Burwell.

Jim married Marilyn L. (Helmkamp) Robbins on April 24, 1973 in Burwell. They farmed near Burwell until 1992 when they retired and moved to Burwell.

He was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and served as the Garfield County Veteran's Service Officer for 27 years. As service officer, Jim staunchly fought on behalf of veterans and their families for the benefits that they had been promised.

He was a member of Clifford Clark Legion Post 298 in Burwell, Nebraska. Jim was a past Commander of the Post and served as the Child Welfare Officer.

He was proud to have marched in the Burwell Color Guard for 52 years. Jim considered it an honor to carry the colors of the county he loved in area parades and ceremonies. But he was most passionate about honoring fellow veterans who had died. Jim often recounted times when the members of the color guard endured winter snow and sub freezing temperatures or triple digit summer heat in order to honor a fallen comrade.

Flying the flag was important to Jim and he helped to put up and to take down the flags for the Color Guard's Avenue of Flags at the Cottonwood Cemetery for many years.

He contributed to the community by serving on the election board and by delivering Meals on Wheels for many years. Jim also donated over 10 gallons of blood to the Red Cross over the years.

Jim was a member of the Burwell United Methodist Church. His participation in the Walk to Emmaus was life changing and thereafter he served as a guide for others and participated in the local Fourth Day group.

He enjoyed the morning coffee group at Barb's and pie on Fridays at the Senior Center before moving to the Community Memorial Health Center and joining that community.

Jim is survived by three step children, Sue and Rick Petersen of Downers Grove, Illinois, Vern and Kay Robbins of Grand Island and Warren and Sue Robbins of Minden. Ten grand children, Brittony Robbins, Kyle Robbins, Krista Robbins, Nathan Petersen, Elizabeth Petersen Banaszak, Gabriel Robbins, Abigail Stahmer, Benjamin Robbins, Sara Robbins and Derrick Walker; and three great-grand children, Eleanor and Everett Banaszak and Blakely Walker. A sister-in-law Sarah Clabaugh. Nephews and nieces, Denny Clabaugh, John Clabaugh, Gary Ohlman, Kent Ohlman, Cheryl Biles, Randy Pettinger and Bill Clabaugh.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents and an infant sister; his siblings, Ruby Conlin, John "Stanley" Clabaugh, Vernon Clabaugh, Harold "Pete" Clabaugh, Dorothy Pettinger, Russell Clabaugh and Gladys Ohlman; his wife Marilyn; and a step son Bernard Robbins.