

Jack Eldon Messersmith, 93, of Burwell, Nebraska, formerly of Taylor died December 19, 2015 at the Community Memorial Health Center in Burwell.

Graveside services will be Wednesday, December 23, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the Taylor Cemetery at Taylor, Nebraska. Visitation will be Tuesday from 5 – 7 p.m. at Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell, Nebraska.

Jack was born December 7, 1922 on a farm northwest of Burwell, in the Pleasant View Community. The second child of Calvin Thomas and Thressa A. (Grainger) Messersmith. He attended eight years of school at District 24. As a teenager he and the family spent one year in Wyoming, where he worked on farms and ranches.

After his family returned to Nebraska he worked on farms until March 9, 1943 when he was called in service in the United States Army. He served 14 months in the field artillery, and over a year in the infantry. He served in the Ardennes Sector of western Germany. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart for wounds received in action while serving with the 4th Infantry. He was honorably discharged on August 23, 1945.

Jack worked as a farm hand and as a telephone trouble shooter in Taylor and Sargent. Any spare time he had was spent hunting or exploring, the outdoors was his favorite place. He was a life member of the National Rifle Association.

Jack is survived by nieces and nephews. Gary and Gini Brescia, Donald and Kathy Brescia and Carolyn McInroy.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents, sisters, Margaret and Anthony Brescia and Betty and Ralph Garrison.