

Bernard Dale Craven, 83, of Bassett, Nebraska died January 21, 2015 at Parkside Manor in Stuart, Nebraska.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Methodist Church in Burwell, Nebraska. Burial will be in Cottonwood Cemetery in Burwell. Pastor Dennis Davenport will officiate. Visitation will from 5 – 7 p.m. on Friday at Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell. Memorials are suggested to Parkside Manor, Ascera Care Hospice, Burwell Color Guard or Nebraska's Big Rodeo.

Bernard was born May 16, 1931 to James and Mary (Thomas) Craven at Berwyn, Nebraska.

Bernard was raised on a ranch near Burwell. He went to country school and then graduated from Burwell High School.

After graduation Bernard worked as a lineman for the power company and also worked at the Nickels ranch. On July 8, 1952 Bernard entered the United States Army and was honorably discharged on July 7, 1954. Bernard worked as a lineman for Stake Construction before moving to Rose, Nebraska in 1955. He worked for Dutch and Isabel Swanson for thirteen years. Bernard married Darlene Kirby in June of 1955 in Ord, Nebraska and they were later divorced. Bernard bought the ranch from Dutch and Isabel after their retirement.

Bernard married Janice Butts on September 25, 1976 in Grand Island, Nebraska. Jan died on December 21, 2000.

Bernard enjoyed ranching and was a member of the Burwell Legion, the Sandhills Cattleman Association, the Rose School board and the Soil Conservation board.

Bernard is survived by five children, Deb and Larry Schwanke of Amboy, Minnesota, Vicky and Nyal Moninger of Dupree, South Dakota, Doug and Dolores Craven of Bassett, Nebraska, Jackie and Lynn Barta of Sierra Vista, Arizona and Jim Craven of Newport, Nebraska. Twenty two grandchildren, forty eight great-grandchildren and two great great-grandchildren. A sister, AnnaBelle Craven of Central Point, Oregon and nieces and nephews.

Bernard was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Jan Craven, a step son, Jeff Roggasch, Two sisters, Sarah Donner and Isabel and Eldon "Tub" Mattern, two brothers, Thomas Craven and Bill Craven. Two great-grandchildren, Hayden Craven and Madeline Wiley.