

Harry "Toot" Edward Foster, 91, of Ericson, Nebraska died February 3, 2013 at the Grand Island Nebraska Veteran's Home.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at the United Methodist Church in Ericson, Nebraska. Burial will be in the Bartlett Cemetery. Pastor Delano Cunningham will officiate. Visitation will be from 5 – 8 on Tuesday at Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell, Nebraska. Memorials are suggested to the Methodist Church or the Ericson Fire Department.

Harry was born June 19, 1921 in Greeley County, Nebraska to Ernest and Sylvia (Wetzel) Foster.

Toot went to school through the eighth grade and then worked for his uncle Dee Foster. He married Phyllis Jackson on February 4, 1942. Toot entered the United States Navy on March 24, 1945. He was honorably discharged on March 31, 1946. After he returned home he worked at the filling station in Ericson for a few years. He then went to work for Missouri Valley Construction for the next eleven years until he began working at the Pitzer Ranch for the following eight years. Phyllis died on December 21, 1977. Toot then worked for Ken Kasselder for the next few years. Toot began working for the Wheeler County Department of Roads. Toot married Elaine Mannelein Hurt on November 3, 1984. He retired from the Department of Roads in 2000.

Toot was a member of the American Quarter Horse Association and the American Legion. His greatest love was horses. He enjoyed working with teams of horses his whole life- from feeding with them to driving them in parades. He was always on time for his grandchildren activities; which included volleyball and basketball games, 4-H events and junior rodeos. One of the activities Toot enjoyed most was watching his sons and granddaughters ride the horses he raised. He took great pride in his horses; all of which trace back to the first mare he owned 70 years ago.

Toot is survived by his wife Elaine Foster. Three children, Joyce and Ron Marsh of Denver, Colorado, Edward and Virjean Foster of Gothenburg, Nebraska and Stan and Cathy Foster of Taylor, Nebraska. Four grandchildren, Jamie and Dustin Copsey, Jenny Foster, Mark and Ann Foster and Aaron and Jessica Foster. Two great grandchildren, Hudson Foster and Ava Foster and one step-grandson, Jeremy Marsh. Two step-daughters, Linda and Jack Yarrington of Apache Junction, Arizona and Susan Ellston of Grand Island, Nebraska, four step-grandchildren and five step-great grandchildren.

Toot was preceded in death by his parents, wife Phyllis, a daughter Sylvia, four brothers, Pat, Jake, John and Frank, two sisters, Lela and Lila as an infant and one step-granddaughter Amie.