

Eugene Andrew "Gene" Swanson, 82, of Burwell, Nebraska died December 3, 2012 at the Community Memorial Health Center in Burwell, Nebraska.

Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m. Friday, December 7, 2012 at the United Methodist Church in Burwell, Nebraska. Burial will be in Cottonwood Cemetery in Burwell. Pastor Delano Cunningham will officiate. Visitation will be from 5 – 7 p.m. at Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell. Memorials are suggested to the Burwell Veteran's Park or the Burwell Color Guard.

Gene was born August 20, 1930 in Garfield County, near Burwell, Nebraska to Roy and Susan (Conner) Swanson.

Gene graduated from Ord High School in 1947 at the age of 16. He was too young to go to the service so he worked with his dad. Gene entered the United States Army on April 8, 1952 and was honorably discharge on April 8, 1954. He married Darlene Maxson on June 4, 1954. They lived at his present home, which was originally homesteaded by the Swanson family. Gene farmed and ranched. He was a very good welder. He was very creative and inventive. He could make something from nothing. He built the first underslung in Garfield County. Their union was blessed with three daughters, Sheryl, Suzanne and Sandra. Darlene died on April 16, 2004.

On July 26, 2005 Gene married Lois Smith.

In recent years he liked to restore antique vintage cars; even, the sewing for the upholstery.

He was a member of the American Legion and he was a Crows Hybrid dealer. He also enjoyed going to auctions.

Gene is survived by his wife Lois Swanson of Burwell, Nebraska. Three daughter and their families, Sheryl and Morley Koll of Ord, Nebraska (Logan and Izzy, Channing, and Jessalyn), Suzanne Swanson of Grand Island, Nebraska (Joseph, Brody and Carissa), Sandra and John Howard of Taylor, Nebraska (Lucus and Miranda, Eric, and Kristen) and two great-grandchildren, Brandon and Tucker and a great-granddaughter on the way. Four step-children, Patt Yost of Burwell, Nebraska, Dan Smith of Lincoln, Nebraska, Dennis and Margs Smith of Bend, Oregon and Edwin and Helen Smith of San Antonio, Texas and their families.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Darlene, a brother, Harold and a granddaughter, Rachael Sue Howard.