

Donald Frank Bunton, 78, of Irwin, Missouri, died Saturday, Sept. 9, 2006.

A lifetime resident of Barton County, Don was born north of Liberal, Missouri, on Sept. 23, 1927, to Frank and Bessie (Creamer) Bunton. He graduated from Liberal High School and served briefly in the U.S. Navy. He began farming with his father and his younger brother, Lee Bunton, near Liberal, then moved to the Irwin area to farm on his own in 1950.

He married Ruth Wood on Dec. 26, 1950, at Lamar First Christian Church. They became the parents of five children, and their three sons joined Don in farming together for several years. Don was progressive, becoming one of the first area farmers to irrigate corn. Later, Don became a partner with his sister, Irene Thomas, in Liberal's Seed & Farm Supply, where he worked until his retirement in 1995. In the last decade, he returned to the farm, where he enjoyed working for his sons and helping other family members.

Don always enjoyed being outside, whether he was farming or fishing with his father or grandsons. He liked to garden and watch the change of seasons. He was devoted to his church, Lamar First Christian, where he served many years as an elder. He was also devoted to his family. He loved his children, their spouses and his grandchildren, and he took pride in them.

Don is survived by his wife, Ruth Bunton; his son Martin Bunton and wife Brenda; his son Michael Bunton and wife Cathy; his son Matthew Bunton and wife Laura (all of the Lamar area); his daughter Kristie Bunton of St. Paul, Minnesota; his daughter Katharine Proctor and husband Matthew, of Joplin; his grandchildren Aaron and Mindy Bunton, Cara and Rod Hoebet, Wynne and Aaron Dogotch, Adam, Molly and Emily Bunton, Beth, Benjamin and Brian Bunton, Luke, Lydia, Clara, Carl and Conrad Proctor; his great-grandson, Drew Bunton; his sister Irene Thomas and his sister-in-law Virginia Bunton, both of Liberal.

## DONALD FRANK BUNTON

Sept. 23, 1927 - Sept. 9, 2006

### ORDER OF SERVICE

Congregational Song	"Victory in Jesus" Mike Gage, associate minister
Prayer	Rob Wilson, preaching minister
Poem	Kristie Bunton
Special Music	"It Is Well with My Soul" Brenda Bunton & Mike Gage
Poem	Matt Bunton
Message	Matt Proctor

Photo Memories

Prayer

Burial will follow at Barton City Cemetery.