

Charles "Chuck" Simpson

Charles Herald Simpson, son of Charles C. and Elsie Anna Brandt Simpson, was born on December 24, 1923, in Shenandoah, Iowa, and passed away at Shenandoah Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, November 27, 2001. He lived in Shenandoah his entire life graduating from the Shenandoah High School with the Class of 1941. At the beginning of World War II he tried numerous times to enlist in several branches of the service but was deferred because of color blindness. While attending pre-med college classes at the University of Iowa, his deferral status changed and Chuck was drafted into the United States Army. A PFC in the 33rd Chemical Decontamination Company he served under General George Patton during the European Campaign. While preparing to cross the English Channel as part of the Normandy Invasion force, his boat was torpedoed and they were forced to abandon ship. He later participated in the invasion of Normandy, landing at Utah Beach on June 6, 1941. His European campaigns included Normandy, Central France, Rhineland and Central Europe. Chuck received the good conduct medal and the EAME SV medal. Following his discharge from the service he returned to Shenandoah where he met and married Jacquelyn Williams in 1945. Chuck and Jackie celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1995. Shortly after their marriage they built a home on Mitchell street where they lived until 1964. With the addition to their family of two daughters, Cindy and Denise, in 1964 they built a new home at their current Nishna Road location. Chuck along with his parents owned and operated Simpson's Cafe, which was established in the 1920s. Chuck was an avid music fan, particularly of dixie-land jazz, which led him to take both guitar and banjo lessons. Golf lessons followed soon after. He received his private pilot's license in 1960 and was an amateur radio enthusiast receiving his license in the late 1950s under the call letters of KOB BJ. Chuck was a member of the JayCees and was keenly involved in fundraising efforts for the purchase and maintenance of the city's Christmas decorations. He continued operating Simpson's Cafe until his retirement in 1997. Chuck enjoyed being busy and worked part-time for Hy-Vee until shortly before his death. Also during his retirement years he became an avid gardener, regaling friends and family with the fruits of his labor and was the first to appear whenever house painting was on "the menu" for his family and friends. He was a member of the Shenandoah and Farragut Masonic Lodges and achieved the level of a thirty-second degree Mason. He also was a member of the Tangiers and Za Ga Zig Shrine Temples.

Chuck was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Earl and Jack Simpson, and an infant daughter. He is survived by his wife Jacquelyn, daughter Cindy Drake and her husband Richard of Corning, Iowa; their children Jennifer Westlake and husband Paul, Erin Wetzel and husband Trent, all of Corning, and Michael Drake of Indianola, Iowa; Denise Simpson of Des Moines and her daughter Christy Knox and her husband Jim of Phoenix, Arizona; great-grandchildren, Kaleigh and Brittney Westlake, Danielle and Abigail Wetzel and Isaac and Joshua Knox, other relatives and many many friends.