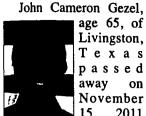
# **Overleden**/Obituaries

## John C. Gezel



15, 2011 after a courageous battle of fighting chemotherapy/radiation complications in Pharr. TX.

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He was born September 20, 1946, in Oskaloosa, Iowa, and grew up in Pella, Iowa, a Dutch community. After graduating Pella High School in 1964, he attended American Institute of Business (AIB) in Des Moines, Iowa, in the field of computer programming/data processing.

In February 1966, he entered the Air Force and served in Denver, CO, Texas, and Little Rock Air Force Base. He served with the Air Force for 3 years, 10 months. He was a member of the American Legion Post #89 of Pella. Iowa.

He was a Senior Systems Analyst for 40 vears in his career in computer programming with **BNSF Railway** (formerly Northern). Burlington Prior to that, he worked for C&S (Colorado & Southern) Railroad. He enjoyed helping any and all that he worked with. They would always look to him for assistance and he gladly gave it.

Having retired in 2005, he and his wife, Sherry sold their home and pursued their dream of travelling full-time in their motor home (RV). He loved to travel and meet new people. John enjoyed seeing his children and grandchildren. He wanted them to share in his knowledge of life. He was their protector. John taught them how to fish and put on worms even instead of fishing himself. He was everyone?s handyman and enjoyed fixing things around the house. If there was a stubborn problem, he always figured it out. Other hobbies he had throughout his life were boating, water skiing, attending Sprint car races, and scuba diving. John was a very caring, devoted, loving father, son, brother and husband. No one would ever forget him and strangers would always come up and talk to him. He was so personable.

LuCreta (Wade) Gezel at Silver Dollar City, Missouri, in October 1986.

John was preceded in death by his mother, Dorothy (Findlay) Gezel in 2004.

He is survived by his wife, Sherry; two daughters, Amy Ann Gezel of Valley, MN; Apple Melanie Kay Gezel-Rangel and husband John Andrew Rangel of Shakopee, MN; grandchildren Brandon Justice Gezel, Cameron Jelis Victoria Gezel, Ann Gezel. Jasper Zane Rangel, and, his father Gary Walter Gezel of Pella, IA. He is also survived by his sister Linda Ann (Gezel) Sutton and husband Robert William Sutton of Jamestown, RI; and Janet Kay (Gezel) Sharp of Pella, IA; several nieces, nephews, cousins and a multitude of friends and relatives.

Visitation was held on Sunday, November 20, 2011, at the Butler Funeral Home in Bolivar, Missouri. Graveside services was held Monday morning, November 21, 2011 at the Greenwood Cemetery in Bolivar, Missouri under the care and direction of the Butler Funeral Home. AMVETS Post #114 of Flemington, Missouri provided full Military Honors and Pallbearers at the cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or the American Institute of Business (Des Moines, IA) c/o the Butler Funeral Home, P.O. Box 11, Bolivar, MO. 65613. John has always been a supporter of this charity and business.

Friends and family may sign the guest book or send private condolences www.butlerfuneralat home.com.

#### **Gilbert Schut** Gilbert James Schut,

School District for thirteen years. He then was employed at Vermeer until his retirement in 1989.

Gilbert made profession of faith at an early age at the Prairie City Christian Reformed Church, where he later served three terms as a deacon. At the time of his death, he was a member of the Calvary Christian Reformed Church of Pella.

Gilbert is survived by his wife, Johana; his son, Tim: his daughter-in-law, Vickie; granddaughter Patty Schut and her children, Sarah and Austin Wade; granddaughter Angie (Scott) Schaffer and their children, Phoebe and Toby; grandson Paul (Cathy) Schut; and his sister, Bernice Brush of LeGrand, Iowa. He was preceded in death by his son, David, who died in 1997, and by his parents.

### **Donald De Wit**

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Donald Lee De Wit was first three sons were that born George and RC. Effie

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(Kamerick) De Wit of Pella, Iowa. He was born on March 19, 1941, in Oskaloosa, Iowa. Don Pella attended the Christian Schools in Pella and graduated from Pella Christian High School with the Class of 1959. He then attended Central College in Pella for one year. Don began working the Rolscreen at Company in Pella on March 8, 1963. After his first day of employment he went on a blind date with Barbara Ann Groenendyk of Tracy, Iowa. Don and Barb were united in marriage on June 26, 1964, at the First Reformed Christian Church in Pella. Together they raised seven lovely children in Tracy: Daniel Lee, Timothy James, Steven Beverly Ann, John, Heidi Elaine, Emily Rose, and Alesha Dawn. Don provided for their family by being a devoted employee of the Pella Corporation for 40 years. He was a foreman in the paint room and then became a master craftsman in the custom shop. His last position was as a continuous improvement technician when he retired in January 2004. Don continued to use his woodworking skills during his retirement. When not doing woodworking he enjoyed gardening, fishing, cooking, traveling, and camping. Don and Barb were avid campers and enjoyed camping at the Iowa State

Fair where he worked in the campground parking lot. He was presently serving as president of Wapello County the Travelin' Sams Club. Don and Barb also enjoyed square dancing and were members of the Lads & Lassies Square Dancing Club. But most important for Don, was the time he spent with his grandchildren and serving the Lord through his church, presently the Bethel Christian Church Bussey, near Iowa. Don's health began to decline during the last 2 years and on November 15, 2011, was life flighted to Mercy Hospital Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa following a fall at his home in Tracy. He underwent surgery there and passed away on Thursday evening, November 17, 2011, at the age of 70 years.

He was loved by all who knew him and will be missed by all. Those who will cherish his memory are his loving wife, Barbara, and their seven children and their They families. are: Daniel De Wit of Ames; Brooklyn De Sart, Jaxon, Lillian, Timothy and Merri Lea De Wit of Cedar Rapids; James, Ryan, Beverly and B. J. De Vries of Phoenix, Zachariah, Arizona; Elizabeth. Jeremiah. Jaazaniah, Steven and Jill De Wit of Tracy; Joshua, Elizabeth and Alan, Ashley, Taylor, Bryon, Madison, Heidi Elliott of Tracy, Iowa, Austin, Erica, Emily and Ralph Wical of Jacksonville, Florida: Jesyka, Samantha, Alesha and Jon Vanderhyde of Tracy and Casandra, Jon Jr., and Grace

Don leaves his sisterin-law, Linda (Robert) De Wit of Eddyville, Iowa; along with the following sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law: Ellen (Groenendyk) and Eddie Parmer of Van Wert, Iowa, Leroy Groenendyk of Tracy, Iowa and Patricia (Groenendyk) Van Toorn of Knoxville; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents: George and Effie De Wit: his parents-in-law: Willem H. "Dutch" and Thelma H. (McGee) Groenendyk; his two brothers: George De Wit and Robert De Wit; and a brother-in-law. Charles B. Van Toorn. Funeral services were on Monday, held November 21, 2011 at the Open Bible Church in Arrangements Pella. were handled by the Van Dyk – Duven Funeral Home.



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DECEMBER 9TH & 10TH

He married Nancy Kay (Hiddleson) Gezel in June 1966 with whom he shared 19 years of marriage. They brought two precious daughters, Amy and Melanie, into the world.

He was later united in marriage with Sherry



30, 1921, on the familyfarm near Monroe, Iowa. He was raised in the Monroe area and educated in the Capital Prairie School.

On January 29, 1948, Gilbert was united in marriage to Johana De Koning at her family farm near Monroe. To this union. two sons were born, David and Timothy.

Gilbert farmed in the Monroe area for many years and also drove a school bus for the Monroe

For anyone interested in Pella's Dutch, their language, and their heritage, you might enjoy an interview on Iowa Public Radio's "Talk of Iowa" show tomorrow morning on WOI 640 a.m. The show runs 10-11 a.m., and the feature on Pella Dutch will be in the third segment, approximately 10:40-11:00. The interview focuses on the book Pella Dutch, recently released in a revised edition by University of Iowa Press: http://news-releases.uiowa.edu/2011/october/102611UI\_Press\_Pella.html The book is available in Pella at the Vermeer Windmill store, and the author, Pella's Phil Webber, will be glad to autograph your copy. The book is at the Geisler Library as well. If you cannot listen to WOI when the broadcast is aired, you can listen to a podcast at the Iowa Public Radio website: http://iowapublicradio.c g/news/talk-of-iowa/ (Click on Previous Shows).

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