



Muriel 'Murl' Charles Estes

May 7, 1924 - September 19, 2011

Muriel "Murl" Charles Estes, 87, of Auburn, Neb., died Monday, Sept. 19, 2011, in Lincoln, Neb. due to complications from a stroke.

He was born May 7, 1924, in Vesta, Neb., to Charles D. and Matilda (Kiel) Estes. Murl grew up in Auburn and in his senior year entered the Army.

Murl met Phyllis Moorhead in Limon, Colo., and they married Aug. 11, 1942. A son was born before he shipped overseas during World War II; a son and daughter were born later.

Murl landed on Omaha Beach and was wounded twice, receiving two Purple Hearts.

After the war, he became a general contractor/developer, building homes in Wyoming and then moved to Alaska where he developed several subdivisions in Anchorage and Kodiak. The family then returned to Rock Springs, developing property and building homes and four-plexes. Murl retired to southwest Colorado to raise cattle, the true love of his life. In 1999, they moved to Lucerne to continue raising cattle.

After losing his wife to cancer on Dec. 13, 2001, Murl continued to live on his ranch until 2002, moving to Thermopolis. He met Mary Beth Ralph, marrying May 25, 2007, in Ruidoso, N.M. They lived in Capitan, N.M., then moved to Auburn in December 2008.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Beth of Bella Vista, Ark.; son, Phillip of Wellington, Colo.; daughter, Charla Abbott of Rifle, Colo.; stepson, Andrew Ralph of Bella Vista, Ark.; sisters, Evelyn Thorpe of Ft. Collins, Colo., Bernice Juhl of Apache Junction, Ariz. and Donna Manley of Lincoln, Neb.; five grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

He was preceded in death by wife, Phyllis; parents; son, Allen; and sister, Jeanie Schmidt. Memorial services will be held in Colorado.

