Gerald Jay Forbes, 81, of Lone Tree, passed away on Monday, March 18, 2013 at Pioneer Park in Lone Tree. Funeral services for Gerald will be held at 10:00 a.m. Monday, March 25, 2013 at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Lone Tree. Father Michael Spierermeier will preside, assisted by Cluster Coordinator Carol Kaalberg. Burial will be in the Lone Tree Cemetery with full military rites provided by the Lone Tree American Legion Post 457. Following the interment, there will be a time of food and fellowship at the American Legion Post 457. Casket bearers will be Gerald’s grandsons, Brian Swedzinski, Carl Swedzinski, Michael Forbes, Korey Forbes, Bryan Forbes, B.J. Eden, Taylor Forbes, Trey Forbes and Logan Forbes. Honorary casket bearers will be Gerald’s granddaughters, Eileen Westfall, Tracey Hoesch, Jessica Rockafellow, Mackenzi Marsh, Danielle Forbes and Madison Forbes. Visitation for Gerald will be held on Sunday, March 24, 2013, from 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Sorden-Lewis Home for Funeral and Cremation Services in Lone Tree. Memorials may be directed to Iowa City Hospice, in Gerald’s name. Online condolences for the Forbes family may be sent to www.lewisfuneralhomes.com.

Gerald Jay Forbes was born on March 10, 1932, in rural Louisa County, he was the oldest son of Daris L. and Irene Mincer Forbes. He attended a rural Louisa County country school, and then graduated from Lone Tree High School in 1949. In 1953, he joined the Army Reserves, and served for 9 years. On June 15, 1953, Gerald was united in marriage to Betty Bekker at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Lone Tree. They would have been married 60 years in June. Gerald farmed all his life south of Lone Tree, and moved into town in 1991. He was on the Farmers and Merchants Bank Board for 30 years. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 457, the Farm Bureau, the Lone Tree Chamber of Commerce, and was a township trustee for Fremont Township for many years. He was a part of the Lone Tree Athletic Boosters for many years and he was a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan. He enjoyed going bowling, coon hunting, fishing, duck hunting and deer hunting. Some of Gerald’s favorite treats were homemade ice cream and Mountain Dew.

Gerald will be deeply missed by his loving wife, Betty, of Lone Tree; eight children, Karen Kay Forbes, of Lone Tree, Diane M. Swedzinski and her husband, David, of Milroy, Minnesota, Colleen A. Westfall, and her husband, Chris, of Lone Tree, Russell C. Forbes, and his wife, Laurie, of Lone Tree, Susan R. Forbes, and friend, Jim Ronan, of Lone Tree, Linda J. Marsh, and her husband, Larry, of North Liberty, John J. Forbes, and his wife, Kelli, of Conesville, and Neil E. Forbes, and his wife, Jill, of Lone Tree; fifteen grandchildren, Brian and Carl Swedzinski, Eileen Westfall, Tracey Hoesch, and her husband, Karl, Michael Forbes, and his wife, Anna, Korey Forbes, Bryan Forbes, Jessica Rockafellow, and her husband, Weston, B.J. Eden, Mackenzi Marsh, Daniella Forbes, Taylor Forbes, Madison Forbes, Trey Forbes and Logan Forbes; two great grandchildren, William and Shyan Rockafellow; three brothers, Keith Forbes, and his wife, Ruth, of Iowa City, Loren R. Forbes, and his wife, Janet, of North Liberty, and Lowell L. Forbes, and his wife, Linda, of Lone Tree.

Gerald was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Lois I. Cook; and brother-in-law, James Cook.