

H-R 5/26/03

George Smith Jr.

George Smith Jr., 83, of Grinnell died of heart failure Thursday, May 22, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, May 27, at Smith Funeral Home with burial following at Hazelwood Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Grinnell Regional Hospice.

He was born Nov. 24, 1919, in Grinnell to George Sr. and Cecil Farmer Smith of rural Searsboro. He was raised on the family farm and attended Grinnell schools. Following high school, he was a painter with Alan Kirvey. In 1941 he entered the United States Air Force, serving as a sergeant with the 87th Air Service Squadron in Europe and Africa during World War II until 1946 when was honorably discharged at Camp Grant, Ill. He then was employed as a heavy-equipment operator.

He was married on May 14, 1960, to Betty Burge and they resided in Grinnell. He was an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion. He was an avid sports fan, who also enjoyed walking around Arbor Lake and feeding the ducks. With his wife, they traveled throughout the United States.

He is survived by his former wife Betty of Newton; two stepchildren, Pat Sisson, Fulton, Miss., and Jay Sisson, Las Vegas, Nevada; two brothers, Gene Smith of Grinnell and Lyle Smith of Bellflower, Calif.; two sisters, Peggy Armstrong of Scottsdale, Ariz., and Norma Burkett of Grinnell; five step grandchildren and four step great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers, Kenneth (Abe), Dale, Max and Neil and one sister Zelpha Crews.