David B. Evans

David taught for several years at Princeton Theological Seminary while finishing his doctoral work, and also taught part-time at St. Vladimir's Seminary, a Russian Orthodox school in West Chester, N.Y. He later became a professor in the theology department of St. John's University in Queens, N.Y., where he taught for more than 25 years.

In retirement, David divided his time between his New York home, and a home in Tuscany in the small medieval town of Bibbiena, not far from Florence. He continued research there, and also enjoyed Italian, Roman and Etruscan history. He moved back to the U.S. and to Grinnell in June 2008 for health care reasons and to be near his family.

David loved all kinds of history, and enjoyed cartography, good fiction, fine wines and gourmet dining, and most of all good fellowship with his family and friends.

David is survived by one son, John H. Evans and his mother, H. Joan Evans, of Appleton, Wis.; three brothers, Thomas Evans of Grinnell, Stephen Evans of West Bend, Wis., and Hugh Evans of Chelmsford, MA; his former wife, June M. Evans of Forest Hills, NY; and his long-time companion, Gloria Fatucchi of Bibbiena.

David Beecher Evans, '81, died at the Mayflower Homes Health Center Saturday, October 10, 2009, of a long-term terminal illness.

A memorial service will be held at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell when arrangements can be completed. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Mayflower Human Needs Fund, 616 Broad St., Grinnell, Iowa 50112, and to Grinnell Hospice Care, 104 Fourth Ave. also in Grinnell.

David was born in Peru, Ill., in 1928, the oldest of four sons of the Rev. Wilford and Maude Evans. He attended North High School in Sheboygan, Wis., and then attended Harvard College in Cambridge, MA, graduating with a B.S. in history. He was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict, and served for six years; two of them as a First Lt. with the infantry in Korea. He was awarded a Bronze Star for exemplary service as a battalion intelligence officer.

He left the service to attend Chicago Theological Seminary, graduating with a B.D. degree summa cum laude. He was awarded a fellowship for post-graduate studies for a year in Bonn, Germany, and then enrolled at Harvard Divinity School where he received a doctorate in theology, graduating with distinction. He specialized in Patristics, the history of the early church fathers of the third and fourth centuries.