Richard W. 'Whitey' Beck

He was born Oct. 4, 1933, in Grinnell, the son of Herman and Marie Graft Beck. He attended rural schools near his home and was a 1951 graduate of Grinnell High School. He was a veteran of the United States Army.

On July 6, 1958, he was united in marriage with Karen Cooper in Newburg. They farmed in Chester Township for 51 years, moving into Grinnell in September, 2009. He retired from dairy farming in 1996 and had worked for Durr Farms part time, helping with spring planting and fall harvest.

He was a member of the Grinnell Elks Lodge; Grinnell Fast-Pitch Softball Association; both Sonora and Mid-American Dairy Association, and Gilman and Sally Co-ops.

He is survived by his wife Karen of Grinnell; three sons, Leon Beck of Grinnell, Robert Beck of Manchester and Daryl Beck of Grinnell; nine grandchildren and one sister Lorita Beck of Colorado Springs, Colo. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Raymond Beck.

Richard W. 'Whitey' Beck, 76, of Grinnell died Saturday, Sept. 4, 2010, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A funeral service will take place Saturday, Sept. 11, at 11 a.m. at Smith Funeral Home with the Rev. Kathryn Roys, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, and Muriel Johannessen, associate in ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church officiating. Organist will be Cheryl Irland and vocalists will be Marty Duffus and Rhonda Minner.

Pallbearers will be his grandchildren, Ashley; Aaron, Shane, Troy, Austin, Jacob; Jordan, Joshua and Jenna Beck. Honorary pallbearers will be Gene Campbell; Larry Cooper, Mark Dinan, Worthin Gratton, David, Henry and Tom Harris, Mark Hendrickson, Don Stoker and Lyle White. Burial will be in Hazelwood Cemetery.

Visitation will be held Friday from 12 noon until 8 p.m. at Smith Funeral Home with family members present from 6 to 8 p.m. Memorials may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church or to Grinnell Regional Hospice.
Richard W. "Whitey" Beck, 76

Richard W. "Whitey" Beck, 76, of Grinnell, died Sept. 4, 2010, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Pastor Kathryn Roys, of St. John's Lutheran Church and Muriel Johannessen, Associate in Ministry at St. John's, officiating. Organist was Cheryl Irland and vocalists were Marty Duffus and Rhonda Minner. Pallbearers were his grandchildren, Ashley, Aaron, Shane, Troy, Austin, Jacob, Jordan, Joshua, and Jenna Beck. Honorary bearers were Gene Campbell, Larry Cooper, Mark Dimatt, Worthin Grattan, David, Henry, and Tom Harris, Mark Hendrickson, Don Stoker, and Lyle White. Burial was in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Memorial contributions may be directed to St. John's Lutheran Church in Grinnell or Grinnell Regional Hospice.

Dick was born Oct. 4, 1933, in Grinnell, the son of Herman and Marie Graff Beck. He attended country schools near his home and was a 1951 graduate of Grinnell High School. He was a veteran of the United States Army.

On July 6, 1958, he was united in marriage to Karen Cooper in Newburg. The couple farmed in Chester Township for 51 years and moved to Grinnell in September of 2009. He retired from dairy farming in 1996, and had worked for Dimatt Farms part-time helping with spring planting and fall harvest. He was a member of the Grinnell Elks Lodge, Grinnell Fast-pitch Softball Association, both Sonora and Iowa National Granges, Farm Bureau, Mid-America Dairy Association, and the Gilman and Sully Co-ops.

Dick was a loving family man and was very active and generous with his grandchildren. He was quiet-natured and honest. He held a passion for fast-pitch softball and was noted not only as an outstanding pitcher, but as one of the best shortstops in the area. He was an avid Iowa Hawkeye and Chicago Cubs fan, and enjoyed watching the Iowa State Cyclones. He enjoyed bowling and had bowled on several league teams for many years. He loved his puppy, Missy.

Survivors include his wife, Karen, of Grinnell; three sons, Leon (Donna) Beck of Grinnell, Roger (Sue) Beck of Manchester, and Daryl (Kelly) Beck of Grinnell; nine grandchildren; and one sister, Lorna Silvers, of Colorado Springs, Colo.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his father-in-law, Everett Cooper; and one brother, Raymond Beck.