Donovan Evans

Donovan Evans, 96, of Grinnell died Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A funeral service will be held Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 10:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church. Interment will be in Hazelwood Cemetery.

Friends may call at Smith Funeral Home Tuesday, beginning at 12 noon, with family members present from 3 to 6 p.m.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church or to Mayflower Human Needs Fund.

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A funeral service was held Wednesday, Dec. 8, at First Baptist Church in Grinnell with the Rev. Susan Metcalf, pastor of the church officiating. Organist was Denise Baustian. Casket bearers were Richard Brown, David Evans, Alan Jamison, Aaron McCaffrey, Lee O'Halloran and Troy Shaffer. Interment was in Hazelwood Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church or the Mayflower Human Needs Fund.

He was born April 1, 1914, in Grinnell, the son of Charles and Nellie Berriman Evans. He was raised in Grinnell and graduated from Grinnell High School with the class of 1933. After his graduation, he remained on the farm and rented several small farms nearby.

He was united in marriage with Patty Abel on Feb. 11, 1942, and they made their home on family acreage, farming and raising livestock. In December 1950, he began working for Clair Strand at United Food Market, continuing until his retirement in 1972. He then did odd jobs, serving as a custodian at First Baptist Church, Grinnell Middle School and the Mayflower Community.

In 1976, he was voted "Custodian of the Year" by co-workers at the Mayflower Community.

He was a long-time member of First Baptist Church, serving as a church trustee and on its deacon board; and a member of the Farm Bureau and Just-a-Mere Club.

He is survived by his son Larry Evans of Sioux Falls, S.D.; his daughter, Jan McCaffrey of Red Oak; five grandchildren and five great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife in 1995; and one brother and two sisters, all of whom died of influenza in 1918.
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Funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, at the First Baptist Church in Grinnell with the Rev. Susan Metcalf, pastor of the church, officiating. Organist will be Denise Baustian. Casket Bearers will be Richard Brown, David Evans, Alan Jamison, Aaron McCaffrey, Lee O’Halleron and Troy Shafer. Interment will be at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Memorials may be directed to the First Baptist Church or to the Mayflower Human Needs Fund.

Donovan was born on April 13, 1914, in Grinnell to Charles and Nellie Berriman Evans. He was raised in Grinnell and graduated from Grinnell High School with the Class of 1933. After graduating from high school, he remained on the farm and rented several small farms nearby.

On Feb. 11, 1942, he was married to Pat Abel in Grinnell. The couple lived on the family acreage and farmed and raised livestock. In December of 1950, he began working for Clair Strand at the United Food Market. He was a loyal member of the United Food Team until his retirement in 1972. After leaving the grocery store, he did odd jobs and worked as a custodian at the First Baptist Church, the Grinnell Middle School and the Mayflower Community. He was voted “Employee of the Year” in 1976 by his co-workers at the Mayflower Community.

Donovan was a long-time member of the First Baptist Church and served as a church trustee and on the deacon board. He was also a member of the Farm Bureau and the Just-A-Mere Club.

Survivors include his son, Larry (Nancy) Evans of Sioux Falls, S.D.; his daughter, Jan (Mark) McCaffrey of Red Oak; five grandchildren, Susan Shafer, David and Julie Evans, Chandra and Aaron McCaffrey; and five great-grandchildren, Megan, Jacob, Mykeasy and Jordan Shafer, and Keegan McCaffrey.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife in 1995; one brother and two sisters, who all died of influenza in 1918.