Don L. Gersdorf

Don L. Gersdorf, 81, of Grinnell died Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2010, at Mayflower Community Health Care Center.

A celebration of life service will be held Friday, Dec. 17, at 10:30 a.m. at Grinnell Christian Church with John Epperson, pastor emeritus, officiating. Honorary bearers were his grandsons, Jon Gersdorf, Ryan Gersdorf, Steve Gersdorf, Zac Gersdorf, Jay Spear and his good friend, David Byers.

Memorials may be designated to the Don Gersdorf Memorial Fund, PO Box 368, Grinnell IA 50112.

He was born Dec. 13, 1928, in Marshalltown, the son of William and Inez Gull Gersdorf. He was raised in Marshalltown, graduating from Marshalltown High School with the class of 1946. He worked for his father at Gersdorf Sand and Gravel Pit, then for Fisher Governor Company in Marshalltown. At the age of 18 he enlisted in the United States Navy with which he was stationed at Adak Island, Alaska, and Winter Harbour, Maine.

He was united in marriage with Dorothy Lowry on June 9, 1951, in Marshalltown. They moved in 1966 to Grinnell where he served Grinnell Beverage as sales manager for 26 years. He also performed landscaping for the Grinnell Nursery and later as a maintenance technician for St. Francis Manor.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Dorothy Gersdorf of Grinnell; his sons, Kim Gersdorf of Des Moines and Dirk Gersdorf and Erin Gersdorf of Grinnell; nine grandchildren; three great grandchildren; and two sisters, Juan Kellogg of LeGrand and Pat Long of Marshalltown. He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Shirley Gersdorf in infancy; and one brother Larry Gersdorf.