

Robert (Bob) Peters

GHR 1-24-11



Robert (Bob) Peters, 88, of Grinnell died Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011, at St. Francis Manor.

A memorial service was held Saturday, Jan. 22, at First Baptist Church in Grinnell with the Rev. Susan Metcalf, pastor of the church, officiating. Music was by Denise Baustian, organist, and Milton Severe, vocalist. Veterans' rites were by the Grinnell Veterans Ceremonial Unit. Interment will be at a later date at Lower Blue Point Cemetery, rural Grinnell.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, Grinnell; Lower Blue Point Church at Heritage Park in Grinnell; or the Eighth Air Force Historical Society in Pooler, Ga. Smith Funeral Home handled arrangements.

He was born March 30, 1922, in Grinnell to John and Mary Hutchison Peters, and was raised in Grinnell, graduating from Grinnell High School with the class of 1940. He attended the University of Iowa in Iowa City, later receiving the Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Maryland, graduating *summa cum laude* in 1964.

He was united in marriage with Mini Bel (Mim) Taylor on Oct. 26, 1941, in Grinnell. He entered the United States Army Air Corps in March of 1943, as a navigator. He flew the first of 35 missions in the European theater of war on June 6, 1944, D-Day.

Following the war he returned to the United States where he became an instructor to navigator candidates. During the Korean Conflict he flew an additional 33 combat missions until his last mission on Dec. 4, 1951.

He was a highly decorated veteran whose combat ribbons included two Distinguished Flying Crosses and the Air Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters.

He retired from the air force in July 1967 while stationed at Oxnard Air Force Base in Camarillo, Calif. In recent years he was an active member of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society.

Following his military career, he spent 25 years as an appraiser with the Ventura County Assessor's Office in California while residing in Camarillo, Calif. He and his wife moved to Grinnell in September, 1991.

He is survived by his wife Mim Peters of Grinnell; one son Steven Peters of Lancaster, Calif.; two daughters, Rhonda Whitehead of Grinnell and Robyn Buenz of Prior Lake, Minn.; eight grandchildren; and 18 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son, William Robert Peters; his parents; and one sister, Anne Rohr.

Robert W. Peters

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A memorial service will be held Saturday, Jan. 22, at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Grinnell.

Smith Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. GHR 1-20-11