Cyril J. Gallagher

Cyril J. Gallagher, 91, of Grinnell, died on Friday, April 1, 2011, at the Mayflower Health Care Center.

Mass of the Resurrection was held Monday, April 4, at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Grinnell with Rev. Nick Adam and Rev. William Reynolds officiating. Music was provided by Marilyn Krieger, organist, and the St. Mary’s choir. Casket bearers were Matt Bowman, Steve Campbell, Pat Foley, Grant Gallagher, Joe Gallagher, Lucas Gallagher, Nicholas Gallagher, Tim Gallagher and Ken McGrody. Internment was at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell with the Smith Funeral Home of Grinnell handling arrangements.

Memorials may be directed to Saint Mary’s Catholic Church or to Grinnell Regional Hospice.

Cyril was born on Jan. 31, 1920, on the family farm near Brooklyn to Eugene and Helen Creamer Gallagher. He was raised on the family farm and attended country school. In 1939, he graduated from Brooklyn High School and began a career as a farmer. During World War II he served with the U.S. Army as an air traffic controller.

On Sept. 7, 1949, he was married to Carmella McGrory at St. Bridget’s Catholic Church in Victor. The couple farmed near Victor, Brooklyn and Deep River. In 1952, they moved to the Grinnell area and operated a grain and livestock farm. He moved to the Mayflower Community in 2007.

Cyril was a member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus. He had also been a member of the Victor Grange and the Iowa Cattleman’s Association, and was past president of the Poweshiek County Cattleman’s Association. He enjoyed RAGBRAI, Iowa Hawkeye football bowl games, carpentry projects and family reunions. His faith and family were both very important to him.

Survivors include his children, Mike Gallagher of Sedalia, Mo., Pat Gallagher of Grinnell, Jim Gallagher of LaValle, Wisc., Mary Lou Gallagher of West Des Moines, Larry Gallagher of Grinnell, Bill Gallagher of Iowa City, David Gallagher of North Liberty, Susy Ketchum of Mt. Vernon, Sara Beck of Cedar Rapids and Mark Gallagher of Johnston; 25 grandchildren; 4 great grandchildren; and one brother, Don Gallagher of Storm Lake.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; one grandson; two great-grandchildren; one brother, Daryl Gallagher; and two sisters, Rosemary Gallagher and Dorothy Claeyss.
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