

## Rufus Willey *GHR 4-11-11*



Rufus Willey, 88, of Marshalltown, formerly of Ames, died Wednesday, April 6, 2011, at the Marshalltown Medical and Surgical Center.

Funeral services were held Monday, April 11, at the Mitchell Family Funeral Home with Pastor Scott Lothe of the Hope United Methodist Church officiating. He was buried with full military honors by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Harry C. Harter Post #839. Visitation was held Sunday at the Mitchell Family Funeral Home. A memorial fund is being established. Condolences maybe offered at [www.mitchellfh.com](http://www.mitchellfh.com).

Born on April 28, 1922, in Iowa City, he and his twin brother Rupert were adopted into the care of Edna A. Willey. They grew up in the Chelsea Community and he graduated from the Chelsea High School's Class of 1940, a class of six students.

In December of 1942, Rufus enlisted in the U.S. Army and served the country until receiving his honorable discharge in December of 1945. He was stationed in Alaska where a Japanese invasion was anticipated. Rufus was an MP and assisted many motorists on the Alaskan Highway while working there. He enjoyed his time in Alaska - except when the mercury would dip down to -60.

He was united in marriage to Mardelle McCollister on March 23, 1944, in Grundy Center. They made their home at Toledo where he was truck driver and then, in 1947, started his lifelong career in the automobile industry. He began as a mechanic at Stein Motors, then moved to Twin City Ford as a service manager, and later working in sales at the Cadillac Chevy dealer in Tama and then at Danskin Cadillac-Pontiac-GMC in Marshalltown. Ultimately he was associated with Cadillac-Pontiac-Chevy for 50 years. He loved his family, as well as dealing with people, antique cars and trips to Colorado.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years Mardelle; five children, Ron Willey of Ames, Linda Ahrens of Grinnell, Jim Willey of Marshalltown, Mark Willey of Dade City, Fla., and Loren Willey of Cedar Rapids; 20 grandchildren; 52 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and a host of friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother; his "uncle" Merle Brush; his twin brother Rupert; and one grandson and one greatgrandson.