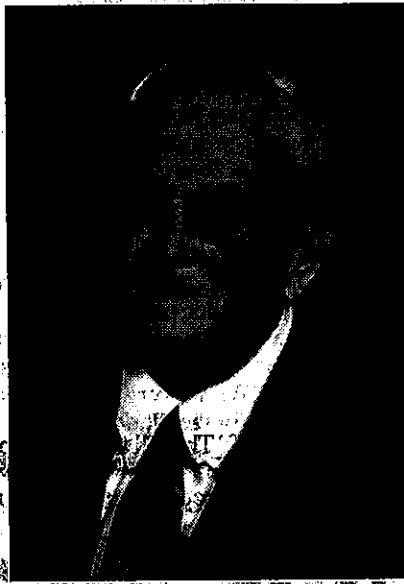


614-R  
1-14-2013 Raymond Ausborne Parker

Raymond Ausborne Parker, 87, of Rock Creek Lake, Jasper County, died January 8, 2013, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.



Funeral services are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Monday, January 14 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Grinnell with Rev. Kathryn Roys officiating. Organist will be Carolyn Bossé. Pallbearers will be his grandchildren, Ryan and Eric Parker, Christine Patrick, Michael and Craig Parker, Dan and Scott Hecker, Kyle, Brent and Curtis Smith, Mikaela and Mattison Cook, Jerald Thompson and Elizabeth and Sarah Ashing. Burial will be in Ivy Hill Cemetery in Malcom.

Visitation was held from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. Sunday at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the family present from 2:00 to 5:00 Sunday afternoon.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Raymond Parker Memorial Fund.

Raymond was born December 7, 1925, in Logan Township, Marshall County, the only son of Ralph and Dora Achtemeier Parker. He attended both Newton and Kellogg schools.

Raymond entered the service in January, 1944. He proudly served his country during World War II on fleets in the Pacific Ocean. After being honorably discharged, Raymond returned to farming in the Jasper and Poweshiek County area.

On June 15, 1947, he was united in marriage with Doris Rehberg, in Malcom. Together they lived on small farms and began their family. After several years, they left farming and Raymond began working at Maytag in Newton. After 30 years of being a committed and loyal employee, he retired in August, 1987. He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Grinnell and the VFW in Newton.

Raymond loved the outdoors. He spent countless hours on his little Ford tractor clearing driveways in the winter to mowing for the neighborhood in the summer. He loved hunting, but his real passion was for fishing at Rock Creek Lake. Even though it is a State lake, he believed it was HIS lake. Nothing made him happier than when the children/grandchildren/great-grandchildren were along the banks fishing with him. Raymond also loved gardening and in later years was proud to hand out the produce - especially his watermelons - to family and friends and anyone that would show up to his house. He will be remembered for his walnut business that provided walnuts to local and out-of-state people. He also enjoyed hunting for mushrooms in the spring. Many times after church, he had to stop to "check an area" and then having to have his suit mended since he had to climb over a fence! He could "smell" the mushrooms and always found more than anyone else! The grandchildren were a true delight to him. He would tease them and become a child again and always wanted to know what they were up to. Watching them sled down his hill at Christmas was a highlight of his holiday season. And no matter who made the homemade ice cream, Raymond was the final taste tester and always added more vanilla. He was an avid sportsman and was always competitive in everything he played. Most importantly, he was very loving, caring, faithful and PROUD of his family. He instilled discipline, a strong work ethic and the value of a dollar to his family.

Raymond is survived by two sons, Ronald (Diana) Parker of Kensett and Larry (Debra) Parker of Nevada, Iowa; five daughters, Deborah (Brad) Hecker of Ankeny, Judith (Doug) Smith of Grinnell, Joyce (Paul) Cook of Solon, Marcia (Kendall) Thompson of Decorah and Pamela (Bob) Ashing of Grinnell; two sisters, Ellen Beukema of Mitchellville and Vernadine Kaisand of Grinnell; 15 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Doris in 2004; a daughter in infancy Linda Lou Parker in 1952; his parents; and one sister, Leota Murphy.

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PCCR 1-16-2013