James K. Sunday

James K. Sunday, 90, of Grinnell, Iowa, died on Wednesday, March 13, 2013, at the Mayflower Health Care Center in Grinnell.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, March 23, 2013, at the Carman Center of the Mayflower Community with Rev. Charles L. Dorsey officiating. Pianist will be Jeanette Tisdale. Inurnment will be at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Annville, Pa. at a later date.

The family will receive relatives and friends one hour prior to the memorial service.

Should friends desire memorials may be directed to either the Mayflower Human Needs Fund, 616 Broad Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112, or to the Harrisburg Police Athletic League, P.O. Box 5102, Harrisburg, Pa. 17110.

James was born on April 7, 1922, in Harrisburg, Pa. to Frank and Annie Kline Sunday. He was raised in Harrisburg and graduated from William Penn High School in Harrisburg with the Class of 1940.

On October 14, 1942, he married the love of his life, Mary Cleland, in Harrisburg. He entered the United States Navy in 1943 and was discharged in 1945. Following his military service the couple resided in Harrisburg. He worked for Smith-Hoopes Plumbing and Heating before joining the Harrisburg Police Department in 1951. As a member of the police department he rose to the rank of sergeant and served as a youth officer. He founded the Harrisburg Police Athletic League, raising $100,000 and recruiting volunteers to offer daily activities for inner city kids, and the Lifer’s Club at the Camp Hill State Prison in Pennsylvania. He also worked for the World Book Encyclopedia Company and Sears-Roebuck Company before retiring in 1980. He has resided at the Mayflower Community in Grinnell since August of 2007.

James enjoyed woodworking, gardening, sports and building model trains. On April 7, 2012, his 90th birthday, Mayor Linda D. Thompson commemorated this date as “James K. Sunday Day” in the City of Harrisburg for his distinguished career of public service to the citizens and youth of Harrisburg.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Sunday of Grinnell; two daughters, Rev. Anne Sunday of Grinnell and June Seiler of Mechanicsburg, Pa.; two grandchildren, Kristen Wesloh and Lane Olt; five great grandchildren, Lukah and Sloane Wesloh, Rebekah and Caleb Olt and Hanna H. Hersh; one great great granddaughter, Ariel Hersh; and one brother, Charles B. Sunday of Paxtonia, Pa.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one grandson, Rik Ebner; one sister, Virginia Redstone; and one brother, Wilbur Sunday.