James E. Reynolds

James E. Reynolds, 85, of Grinnell, died Sunday, Oct. 20, 2013, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center. A celebration of his life will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 2, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Grinnell. A reception will be held in the Carman Center of the Mayflower Community, 600 Park St. in Grinnell, following his service. Memorials may be designated to the Barbara Reynolds Memorial Fund to benefit St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Grinnell. Memorials may be mailed in care of Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.smithfh.com.

James Reynolds was born in Snyder, Texas. He lost his mother when he was a toddler and lived with relatives until age 14, when he went to live with his Aunt Effie and Uncle Saul Harberg in Taos, N.M. He served in the United States Army from 1946 until 1947 and was stationed in Japan. He also served in the New Mexico National Guard. James was married to Barbara O'Neall Sutton in Wichita, Kan., on June 5, 1951. He graduated from New Mexico State University and received his PhD from Oregon State University in plant pathology. He worked in the plant science and seed corn industry including working in Egypt and Turkey for eight years.

Upon retirement in 1986, he started a legacy hardwood tree farm in rural Oxford, Iowa. Today some of the seedlings he planted are now oaks and walnuts over 40 feet tall and a foot in diameter. He spent many enjoyable days working at the family tree farm.

He is survived by sons James Reynolds of Clive, John Reynolds of Grinnell, and Rod Reynolds of Johnston; eight grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Jack, Bob, Marjorie, Roseanna, and Andy; and his wife, Barbara on Jan. 22, 2013.