Bernard Hotchklin, 92, of Grinnell, died December 31, 2014, at his home.

Bernard was born February 17, 1922, in Grinnell, Iowa, the son of William Philip and Elizabeth Harter Hotchklin. He was raised on farms near Newburg and was a 1939 graduate of Newburg High School. He was a veteran of the United States Army Air Corps during World War II and served with the 460th Bomber Squadron Group in the European Theatre as a waist gunner on a B-24 bomber. On June 15, 1946, he was united in marriage with Caroline Lurka, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grinnell. A union of 68 years! The couple lived at several places in the area prior to moving to their farm north of Grinnell in 1960. They moved to Park Place Condos in Grinnell in 2007. The couple wintered for 16 years in Yuma, Arizona.

Bernard worked as a carpenter throughout central Iowa and founded Hotchklin and Sons Construction. He also farmed in the area. He retired in 1990. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Newburg Alumni serving as past president, Newburg American Legion, and Chester Royal Grange.

He enjoyed traveling throughout the United States in an RV with his wife. He also enjoyed woodworking, playing dominos and other games, and photography.

Survivors include his wife, Caroline of Grinnell, six children, LaRita (Jim) Steiner of Heber Springs, Arkansas, Wil (Deneen) Hotchklin of Marietta, Arizona, Martha (Wallace) Woods of Village Mills, Texas, Philip (Beth Fisher) Hotchklin of Grinnell, Edward Hotchklin of Des Moines, and Helen Jo Hotchklin of Grinnell, nine grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents, one son, William (Bill) Hotchklin, one daughter-in-law, Betty Hotchklin, one grandson, Jason Hotchklin; and one sister, Anna Marie Mortensen.

Funeral services are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 6, 2015, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grinnell with the Rev. Ron Hodges officiating. Organist will be Marilyn Kriegl accompanied by the St. Mary's Choir. Vocalist will be Edward Hotchklin. Pallbearers will be Matt Blakenfield, Austin Frasch, Aaron Hotchklin, Dustin Hotchklin, Don Kriegl, Terry Lewis, Randy Lutkia, Richard Mortensen and Zach Stoery. Burial with military honors will be in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Visitation will be held from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Monday at the Smith Funeral Home. The family will be present from 6:00 to 8:00 Monday evening. A vigil service has been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the St. Mary's Capital Campaign.