Dr. Robert Watson

Dr. Robert F. Watson, 77, of Grinnell, formerly of Parkersburg, died Sunday, March 20, at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines.

A funeral service is being held Thursday, March 24, at 3 p.m. at Grinnell United Methodist Church with the Rev. Len Eberhart and Deacon Diane Wasson Eberhart officiating. Organist is Kathleen Heffner and guitar and vocal music are by Dan Manning. Pallbearers are Rick Bickert, Ziad, Lisa and Danielle Malek; Dan Manning, and Bill, Jeff, Julie and Robbie Smith. Honorary bearers are Rod Bickert, Jim North and Jack Schuck. Burial is in Westfield Cemetery, rural Grinnell. Memorials may be made to the United Methodist Church in Grinnell or Parkersburg, or to Dollars for Scholars.

in Grinnell or Parkersburg.

The son of Leo Frederick and Zella Lenore Schuck Watson, he was born Oct. 10, 1927, in Worthington, Minn. His paternal grandfather Frederick Watson was the attending physician. He grew up in Parkersburg, the home of his mother and many members of her family. He was united in marriage on Aug. 23, 1951, with Jeanette MacLeod of Greene whom he met in college; both were graduates of the University of Iowa. A graduate of the university’s dental college, he practiced with his father, Leo, for 13 years, then continued to practice until his retirement in 1989.

He enjoyed his family, nature and the outdoors, was active in the Parkersburg community and designed its Beaver Meadows Golf Course. He and his wife enjoyed travel, gardening and the Hawkeyes, music, theater and sports, attending many events in which their children and grandchildren performed. They moved to Mayflower in 2002.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanette of Grinnell; three daughters, Janet Lynn Manning of Ellicott City, Md., Nancy Malek of Sherburn, Mass., and Sally Smith of Grinnell; five grandchildren, and one sister, Sally Bickert of Sheboygan, Wis. He was preceded in death by his parents.

H-R March 24, 2025