Gaylord E. Gary

Gaylord E. Gary, 95, of Waukee, Iowa, and formerly of Grinnell, died on Sunday, December 20, 2015, at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa.

A funeral service was held at 11 a.m., Monday, December 28, 2015, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. A surprise service will be at the Maple Grove Cemetery near Montour, Iowa.

Memorials may be directed to Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines.

Gaylord was born on August 23, 1920, on the family farm near Montour, Iowa, to Charles and Mary Aldrich Gary. He was raised on the family farm, attended rural school and later graduated from Montour High School. He attended Iowa State University and was a member of Delta Chi Fraternity before entering the United States Army on September 21, 1942. During World War II, he served with the 26th Chemical Service Platoon in Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. He finished his studies at Iowa State University before accepting a job in Chicago and later moving to Marion, Ohio.

On November 23, 1950, he was united in marriage to Ethel Johnson in Columbus, Ohio. The couple lived in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois before moving to Grinnell, Iowa, in 1961. He worked for Rudy Patrick, North American Planter Breeders and later for Royal Dutch Shell as a Regional Sales Manager, covering 13 states from the Mississippi River to Denver, Colorado. His wife, Ethel, died on September 4, 1980. He married Flora Brainard following his retirement; the couple lived on the family farm near Montour and they raised registered quarter horses, flowers and vegetables. They also enjoyed traveling to Colorado and Hawaii.

Survivors include his daughter, Sharon Neff of Des Moines; two grandchildren, Kerry (Trudy) Neff of Des Moines and Katie (Adam) Offerman of West Des Moines; five great-grandchildren, Jack, Chloe and Nora Neff and Aidan and Adalyn Offerman; one stepson, David (Karen) Todd; one stepdaughter, Debosh (Ralph) Gilbert; three step-grandchildren, Christopher (Sara), Steven (Michelle) and Lindsay Martens; and four step-great-grandchildren, Carter, Nathan, Christopher and Laura Martens.

He was preceded in death by both of his wives, his parents; one stepson, Steven Todd; and one brother, Rolland Gary.