Arthur J. Picard, age 86, of Grinnell, died on Saturday morning, May 14, 2016, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center with his family by his side. A funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 18, 2016, at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Grinnell with Fr. Ron Hodges presiding. Visitation was held one hour prior to his service at the church.

Arthur James Picard was born the son of Dr. Arthur Paul Picard and Mary Jane (O’Hare) Picard on July 15, 1929, in Chicago, Illinois. He was raised in Chicago and educated in Chicago. He graduated from Loyola University in June of 1951, with a Bachelor of Science degree. Art honorably served in the United States Navy during the Korean War from 1952 until 1955. On January 25, 1958, he was united in marriage to Mary Ellen McGoorty at St. Clement Church in Chicago, Illinois. The couple lived in Chicago and was blessed with four daughters, Catherine, Mary Susan, Margaret, and Elizabeth. In 1981, Art and Mary Ellen moved to Grinnell and Art began his longtime career at Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company. After 20 years of employment, he retired from GMRC on November 2, 2001.

Art treasured and deeply loved his family. He was extremely proud of his wife, daughters and grandchildren. He was a longtime member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Grinnell and served as a trustee, Eucharistic minister, and a 4th Degree Knight with the Knights of Columbus. Because of his passion for Civil War history, he was instrumental in keeping the Civil War Roundtable group going and it is still active to this day. His passions included history, science, sports, and anything else that might strike a lively conversation. He had an affinity for intellectual discussions with his friends and family. Art will be remembered for his quick wit, keen sense of humor, and for his kind and gentle ways.

Art is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Mary Ellen Picard of Grinnell; four daughters, Catherine (Peter) Caldwell of Crete, Illinois, Mary (John) Picard-Dufresne of St. Paul, Minnesota; Margaret Jacobs of Buffalo, Minnesota; and Elizabeth Picard of Chicago, Illinois; and five grandchildren, Patrick, Anna and Daniel Jacobs of Buffalo, Minnesota, and Therese and Vanessa Caldwell of Crete, Illinois. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Betsy Picard and her companion, Annie Stoch; and son-in-law, Glen Jacobs.

A special thank you to the staff at Grinnell Regional Medical Center and St. Francis Manor for your extraordinary loving care.