

Victor S. Verrette

Victor S. Verrette, 84, of Grinnell, died Monday, April 18, 2016, at the Mayflower Community Health Care Center in Grinnell.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, May 21, in the Carman Center of the Mayflower Community, 600 Park St. in Grinnell.

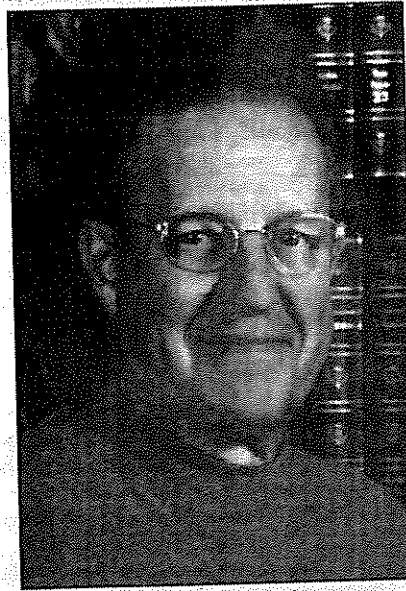
Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service.

Memorials may be designated to the Grinnell Regional Medical Center Healing Garden or St. Paul's Episcopal Church, mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

6H-R 4-21-2016

Victor Simeon Verrette

6H-R
5-2-2016



Victor S. Verrette, age 84, of Grinnell, died on Monday, April 18, 2016, at the Mayflower Community Health Care Center in Grinnell.

A celebration of his life will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, May 21, 2016, in the Carman Center of the Mayflower Community, 600 Park Street in Grinnell, with Pastor Wendy Abrahamson officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service.

Memorials may be designated to the Grinnell Regional Medical Center Healing Garden or St. Paul's Episcopal Church, mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box

368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with Vic's family online at www.smithfh.com.

Victor Simeon Verrette was born the son of Victor Simeon Verrette, Sr. and Dorothy (Gillis) Verrette on November 16, 1931, in Dover, New Hampshire. He was raised and educated in Dover and Worcester, Massachusetts, where he graduated from Assumption Prep School in 1949. He graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1953 with a BA degree in French.

Vic honorably served in the United States Army from 1953 until 1955. He moved to Berkeley, California, shortly thereafter and attended University of California, Berkeley. On January 14, 1956, Vic was united in marriage to Sallie Cheavens in San Carlos, California. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1963, with a PhD in Romance Languages and Literatures. The couple moved to Missoula, Montana, and Vic was an instructor of French at the University of Montana. In 1961, the couple moved to Grinnell, Iowa, and Vic began his longtime career of teaching French at Grinnell College.

Vic was well known for his green thumb and enjoyed tending to his flower and vegetable gardens as well as beautifying the downtown Grinnell flower containers. He was a member of several organizations, which include various book clubs, the Hosta Society, the Dwarf Conifer Society, Pfitsch's Fishes, the local coffee club, and was president of the local gardening club. Recently, he assisted with the Healing Garden at Grinnell Regional Medical Center and beautifying the grounds at Drake Library, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and the Mayflower Community. Vic also held a passion for art, religious architecture, and traveling, especially to France. Later in life he developed a passion for running and was well known for participating in marathons such as the Lincoln National Guard Marathon and the Twin Cities Marathon.

Vic is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sallie Verrette of Grinnell; two sons, Charles Verrette of Oakland, Calif., and Paul (Carol Hinz) Verrette of Minneapolis, Minn.; one daughter, Claire (W. David) Mathias of Austin, Texas; three grandchildren; and three siblings, Dorothy Ross of Madbury, N.H., Andrea Ross of Dover, N.H., and Jacques Verrette of Scottsdale, Ariz.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a sister, Claire Perry.

Verrette Victor S

From: Grinnell College <boonedana@grinnellcollege.ccsend.com> on behalf of Grinnell College
<communications@grinnell.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 3:05:39 PM
To: Duke, Charles
Subject: Special Campus Memo: Victor Verrette

Victor S. Verrette, professor emeritus of French, died in Grinnell on April 18, 2016, at the age of 84.

During Vic's more than 40 years at Grinnell College, his love of the French language and Francophone culture enriched the campus and the lives of countless students.

He was a 1953 graduate of the University of New Hampshire-Durham, where he earned a bachelor's degree in the romance languages. In 1963 he earned a doctorate at the University of California-Berkeley.

He taught at the University of Montana from 1959 to 1961. He then came to Grinnell and taught for the rest of his career. His scholarship and teaching were distinguished by his commitment to the liberal arts and the importance of language across the curriculum. His research in the areas of linguistics and foreign language methodology, including computer-assisted instruction, helped keep Grinnell at the forefront of pedagogy.

Vic's most dramatic effect on Grinnell College may have been in the creation of the Grinnell-in-London program in 1974, along with **Doug Caulkins**, then associate professor of anthropology. Vic's enterprise and perseverance brought the dream to reality. He created a miniature version of Grinnell in London, using the museums, libraries, theatres, and countryside of Great Britain to teach courses ranging from literature to theatre to history.

Vic is survived by his wife Sallie and his children, **Claire Verrette Mathias '86** and **Paul Verrette '94**.

A memorial service is scheduled at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 21, in the Carman Center of the Mayflower Community, 600 Park St., Grinnell. Visitation will be at 10 a.m.

Memorials may be designated to the Grinnell Regional Medical Center Healing Garden or St. Paul's Episcopal Church, mailed in care of Smith Funeral Home, P.O. Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.