Donald L. Franklin, 93, of Grinnell, died on Sunday, February 12, 2017, at Windsor Manor in Grinnell.

A private family service will be held on Friday, February 17, 2017, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. Interment will be at a later date in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Memorials may be directed to Grinnell Regional Hospice or to the Grinnell Christian Church.

Don was born on July 4, 1923, in Verdel, Nebraska, to Grafton and Arvilla Sewell Franklin. After graduating from Verdel High School, he entered the U.S. Navy on June 2, 1941, and served during World War II on the SC 709. He was honored by a special citation for his “Bravery and Coolness Under Perilous Conditions” after being shipwrecked in Nova Scotia on his ship. Don was honorably discharged from the Navy in September of 1945.

Don was married to Joyce Elayne Peck in February of 1942, in Verdigre, NE. He was employed for 37 years for the Metz Baking Company in O’Neill, NE; Worthington, MN; Sioux City, IA; and Rapid City, SD.

Those left to cherish Don’s memory are his children, Kenneth (Sue) Franklin of Plymouth, MN, and Lynn (Jeff) Schwarck of Grinnell, IA; 11 grandchildren, Tiffani (Dwayne) Wilson, Todd (Aimee) Franklin, Isaac (Chelsea) Percival, Madison Percival, Chad (Kristin) Weber, Jenni (Eric) Bryant, James (Jae) Weber, Kimberly (Randy) Dixon, Krystal (Greg) Davidson, Ben (Cari) Schwarck, and Jeremy Schwarck; and 25 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 48 years, Joyce Franklin; and his parents.