

## OBITUARIES

GRINNELL RESIDENT

## Dr. Everett Gerrish, 90



In Memoriam:

Dr. Everett Gerrish, age 90, of Grinnell, died on Sunday, January

22, 2017, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center with his family by his side.

A celebration of his life was held Friday, January 27, 2017, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Grinnell with Pastor Kathryn Roys officiating. Interment with military rites followed in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Visitation was Thursday at the Smith Funeral Home and his family greeted friends Thursday evening.

Memorials may be des-

ignated to the Dr. Everett Gerrish Memorial Fund and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Condolences may be shared with his family online at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).

Everett Elmer Gerrish was born the son of Elmer Clyde Gerrish and Edna Woodward Gerrish on October 2, 1926, in Auburn, Maine, where he was also raised and educated. Upon graduating from Edward Little High School in 1945, he immediately left to serve in the United States Army Air Corps as a Private First Class during World War II from 1945 until 1946. He received his BA degree in Botany from the University of Maine in 1950. To further his educa-

tion, he moved to St. Paul, where he received his master's and doctorate degrees in Plant Genetics from the University of Minnesota in 1956.

While attending the University of Minnesota, he met "the long-haired girl" and love of his life, Verna Mae Dalluge, who worked in the research office. They were united in marriage on June 13, 1953, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN. In November of 1956, the couple moved to Grinnell, IA, where they were blessed with three children: Audrey, Bradley, and Wendy.

Everett began his lifelong career of 37 years in Grinnell as a plant geneticist with Cargill, Inc. His principle goal was to de-

velop new corn hybrids that blended Midwest with tropical strains, enabling the production of corn in parts of the world where it wasn't previously possible. This work took him all over the globe as he served as International Liaison of Seed until retiring in 1993. He remained a consultant for Cargill's foreign research programs for several years thereafter. A Cargill owner who spoke at Everett's retirement credited him with helping to feed the hungry in the third world populous through his life's work. His name is also included in *Who's Who of American Scientists*.

Everett was a loving family man and devoted supporter of all of his kids' activities. He was very

passionate about fitness and running long before it became commonplace. His love of track and field drew him to the Drake Relays every year since 1968. From childhood in central Maine onward, life enjoyments included fishing, boating, hiking, and taking in all the beauty of the great outdoors. Everett was an avid reader and his writing skills bloomed into poetry; several of his poems have been published in *Lyrical Iowa* and papers near his hometown in Maine. His inventive side revealed itself by fashioning his own improved versions of snowshoes, ice fishing traps and sleds, numerous bird houses, and a unique and delicious corn-based brew. Everett will be re-

membered for the love he gave to his family, for the teachings instilled, for being a nature enthusiast, and for his earthy sense of humor.

Everett is survived by his wife of 63 years, Verna M. Gerrish of Grinnell; two daughters, Audrey Wessling of Minneapolis, MN, and Wendy Gerrish of Urbandale, IA; son, Brad Gerrish of Omaha, NE; two granddaughters, Molly Wessling of Minneapolis, and Erin Wessling of Leipzig, Germany; niece, Arlyn (Forrest Foreman) Weeks of Scarborough, ME; and nephew, Jonathan (Cathy) Weeks of Waterville, ME. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Evelyn Weeks; and his aunt, Grace Gerrish.

### Everett Gerrish

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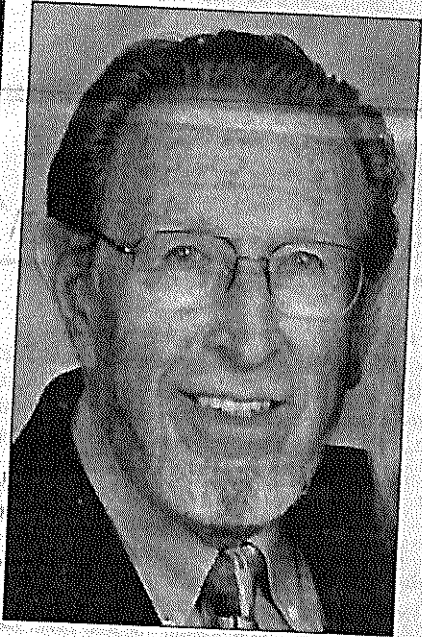
A celebration of his life will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, Jan. 27, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Grinnell. Interment with military rites will be at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Visitation will begin at 2 p.m. on Thursday at the Smith Funeral Home and his family will greet friends from 5 until 7 p.m. Thursday evening.

Memorials may be designated to the Everett Gerrish Memorial Fund and

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In Memoriam: 614-R  
Dr. Everett Gerrish 1-26-2017



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