

GHR

12-28-2017

## Paul Gordon Borthwick

Paul Gordon Borthwick, age 84, of Grinnell, passed away December 22, 2017, at Mayflower Community Health Care Center.

Memorial services are scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Monday, March 26, 2018, at Grinnell United Methodist Church.

Paul Gordon Borthwick was born in Des Moines, Iowa, where he attended Wallace elementary school and Amos Hiatt junior high. During his teen years Gordon spent his summers on his Grandparents' farm near Clarinda where he learned first-hand about farming. His Uncle Donald was the best role model. In 1946 Gordon moved with his family to Indianola where he attended and graduated from Indianola High School. He attended Simpson College until enlisting in the US Army in 1953. Following military service during the Korean Conflict he enrolled on the GI Bill in Iowa State College (ISU) and graduated in 1958 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. While attending ISU Gordon's sister arranged a blind date on February 18 with a Simpson College co-ed and Gordon visited Indianola every weekend after that to see Alicemary. Eighteen months later they were married in Red Oak, Iowa, on August 18, 1957 - the hottest day of the summer.



Following graduation from ISU, Gordon was employed in the engineering and sales departments of Fisher Controls in Marshalltown, Iowa. He enjoyed participating in the YMCA volleyball league and ice hockey on the Iowa River. Gordon retired from Fisher Controls in 1986 after 28 years employment. During those 40 years, living in Marshalltown, Gordon and Alicemary had four children, Steven in 1958, Paul in 1961, John in 1964, and Karen in 1966. Those years were spent attending swim meets, cross country meets, and track meets. Gordon's interest in cycling began when he bought his son's bicycle. He even entered a bicycle race as a senior in Mason City.

In 1979, Gordon began designing and building single and tandem bicycle frames. In that career he built a total of 169 bicycle frames for customers throughout the mid-west. He was known as a master craftsman with the attention to details. He retired from that business in 2003. Gordon and Alicemary attended many national bicycle rallies from Canada, to Maryland, to Florida, to Arizona, to Washington. They toured on their tandem bicycle in England and in Germany as well as on the Icefields Parkway in Canada. The highlight of Gordon's bicycling career occurred in 1990 when he was joined by three cycling buddies as they peddled from Seattle, Wash., to Iowa. Gordon was a participant in many RAGBRAIs across Iowa.

Gordon and Alicemary moved in 1999 to the Mayflower Community in Grinnell. Gordon became a charter member of the Grinnell Railway Express model railroad organization. He served as treasurer and secretary of the Iowa Transportation Museum before retiring from that organization in 2016. Gordon has been an active member of the Grinnell United Methodist Church as well as past treasurer of the Mayflower Residents Association.

Gordon was preceded in death by his parents, an infant son Paul, and his older brother Roger. He is survived by a sister Peggy (Charles) Hickman, a sister Betty Maffett, and many cousins, nieces and nephews. Also surviving is his wife of 60 years, Alicemary; sons Steven of South Milwaukee, Wis., and John (Diane) of Clinton, Mo.; a daughter Karen (Dave) Campbell of Independence, Mo.; grandchildren Kathryn Weaver of Minneapolis, Minn., Sean Weaver of Zurich Switz, and Alix, Kali, Mikaya, and Elijah Campbell of Independence, Mo. Memorials may be directed to Mayflower Human Needs Fund, Grinnell United Methodist Church and ALS Association Iowa Chapter.