

OBITUARIES/AREA NEWS

GRINNELL RESIDENT

Dr. Bernhard G. Wiltfang, 86



Dr. Bernhard G. Wiltfang, age 86, of Grinnell, died on Saturday, November 25,

2017, due to a farm accident near his home west of Grinnell.

A funeral service was held Thursday, November 30, 2017, at the Grinnell Christian Church with Pastor John Epperson officiating. A reception followed the service at the Elks Lodge in Grinnell. Private family burial will be on the Wiltfang farm west of Grinnell.

Visitation was on Wednesday at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell and his family received friends that evening.

Memorials may be designated to Poweshiek

County 4H or to the Brownell Emergency and Trauma Center at Grinnell Regional Medical Center. Memorials may be mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with his family online at <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/271ABDiNqA13F5?domain=smithfh.com>.

Bernhard Gerald Wiltfang was born the son of Bernhard and Gladys (Primus) Wiltfang on November 15, 1931, in Marshalltown, Iowa. He was raised on the family farm near Wellsburg, Iowa and graduated from Wellsburg High School in 1949. He moved to Iowa City in 1959 to pursue a medical degree. After graduating from the University of Iowa he attended medical

school at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, where he earned his doctorate. He served his residency at Mercy Hospital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

On July 10, 1967, he started a private medical practice in Grinnell, where he served and cared for the community for 36 years; retiring on July 10, 2003. Bernhard was united in marriage to Patricia Gilligan on November 30, 1991 and together they were blessed with three children: Bennett, Maggie and Anneliese. They raised their family west of Grinnell on the family farm.

Bernhard was well known around the community as "Doc." He dearly loved his family and enjoyed the family get-togethers on the holidays and taking trips to the family home in Flori-

da. His farms were his favorite hobby. He was a great doctor, good husband, wonderful father and grandfather who will be dearly missed.

Bernhard is survived by his wife of nearly 26 years, Patricia Wiltfang of Grinnell; son, Bennett Wiltfang of Des Moines; three daughters, Maggie Wiltfang of West Des Moines, Anneliese Wiltfang of Des Moines, and Nancy Collins of Little Rock, Arkansas; two step-daughters, Sabrina (Trent) Edsen of Grinnell and Angelique (Luis) Castanon of Tama, Iowa; grandchildren, Makayla, Eva, Luis, Jr., Ariana, Cora, Kyla, Alissa, and Christina; and great grandchildren, Sydney, Charlotte and Savannah. He was preceded in death by his parents; an infant son, Gerald; brother, Calvin; and sister, Berniece.

Field fire claims life of Grinnell man

A freak grass fire claimed the life of a Grinnell man Saturday afternoon, Nov. 25, just west of Grinnell. Bernard Wiltfang, 86, lost his life in the fire. Pushed by windy conditions, the fire burned around 40 acres, consuming some 70 hay bales before it was extinguished.

Grinnell firefighters were called to the area west of Grinnell where Hwy. 6 intersects with 20th St. at about 2:45 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 25, where heavy smoke was reported northwest of the 3300 block of 20th St on the north side of Hwy. 6.

When firefighters arrived, they found portions of a grassy field, a bean field, and a field where hay bales were stored all on fire.

Firefighters also found Wiltfang outside a truck which he had driven into a field he owned. According to Grinnell Fire Chief Dan Sicard, Wiltfang's truck had become stuck on some field terracing, and Wiltfang had gotten out of the truck. The exhaust from the truck

then ignited the nearby grass, and the wind drove the fire. Wiltfang became a victim of the fire which was quickly spreading.

The blaze started in Jasper County, and the Jasper County Medical Examiner pronounced Wiltfang dead at the scene.

Driven east by winds, the fire entered Poweshiek County and ignited some 70 bales of hay at the McDonald Landscaping property at 101 Hwy. 6. Firefighters extinguished the burning grass and bean fields, then worked with a local landowner who used a tractor to pull apart the burning hay bales. Firefighters were at the scene for over three hours, allowing the hay bales to finish burning and making sure no additional fields were burned.

The total burned area was about 40 acres, and firefighters returned on

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Field fire —

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Sunday, Nov. 26, to be sure that all burning was extinguished.

Eighteen Grinnell firefighters responded to the fire scene on Nov. 25, assisted by firefighters from the Gilman and Kellogg departments, by deputies from the Jasper and Roweshiek County Sheriffs' Offices, and by Midwest Ambulance. Sicard estimated the value of the hay at from \$4,000 to \$5,000.

614-# 11-23427-2017

Dr. Bernhard 6H-R

G. Wiltfang 11-23+27-2017

Dr. Bernhard G. Wiltfang, 86, of Grinnell, died Saturday, Nov. 25, 2017, near his home west of Grinnell. Arrangements are pending at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. Memories and condolences may be shared with his family online at www.smithfh.com.

6H-R

11-30-2017

Dr. Bernhard G. Wiltfang



Dr. Bernhard G. Wiltfang, age 86, of Grinnell, died on Saturday, November 25, 2017, due to a farm accident near his home west of Grinnell.

A funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, November 30, 2017, at the Grinnell Christian Church with Pastor John Epperson officiating. A reception followed the service at the Elks Lodge in Grinnell. Private family burial will be on the Wiltfang farm west of Grinnell.

Visitation began at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell and his family received friends from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Memorials may be designated to Poweshiek County 4H or to the Brownell Emergency and Trauma Center at Grinnell Regional Medical Center. Memorials may be mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with his family online at www.smithfh.com.

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