

## Kenneth A. Christiansen

A memorial gathering focused on Remembering Ken Christiansen will be held Saturday, June 2, 2018, at 1 p.m. on the South Lawn of Grinnell House, 1011 Park St. In the event of rain, the gathering will be held in Herick Chapel, 1128 Park St.

Christiansen, 93, died Nov. 26, 2017.

A full obituary ran in the Nov. 30, 2017, edition of this newspaper.

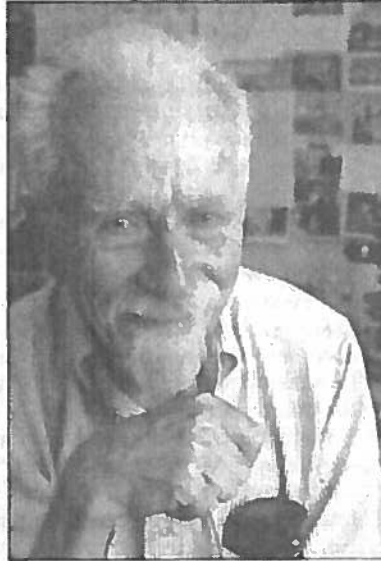
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## Kenneth A. Christiansen

Kenneth A. Christiansen, 93, of Grinnell and a retired professor at Grinnell College, died Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center. Arrangements are pending at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. Memories and condolences may be shared with his family online at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).

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## Kenneth Allen Christiansen <sup>6/17-2</sup> 11-30-2017



Kenneth Allen Christiansen, professor emeritus of biology at Grinnell College, died at Grinnell Regional Medical Center on Sunday, November 26, 2017, at the age of 93.

The son of Christian Peder Christiansen and Ethel Robinson Christiansen, he was born June 24, 1924, in Chicago, Illinois. He grew up in Chicago and Maine before moving to Boston, where he graduated from Dorchester High School for Boys in 1942. During World War II he served three years with the Forty-First Armored Infantry Regiment of the U. S. Army's Second Armored Division, serving in North Africa

and Europe and being decorated twice for bravery. He then attended Boston University and Harvard University, where he earned a Ph.D degree in biology in 1951. He was married to Phyllis Smith on June 7, 1947, in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Ken taught three years at the American University of Beirut and one year at Smith College before joining the Grinnell College faculty in 1955. In 1970 he was appointed the Harry Waldo Norris Professor of Biology. He retired from classroom teaching in 1989, remaining active in research until 2012. He was an authority on a group of small arthropods, the Collembola, studying their classification and evolution, particularly under the constant conditions of caves. In addition to many articles, he co-authored two books, *The Collembola of North America* and *The Collembola of Hawaii*. He was awarded numerous grants in support of his research, by the National Science Foundation, Grinnell College and other organizations.

Ken was an elected Fellow of The American Association for the Advancement of Science, The Explorers Club, The National Speleological Society and The Iowa Academy of Science. He was a Correspondent of The Museum of Paris. He received an Award of Merit from The Iowa Academy of Science and also the Iowa Governor's Science Medal for excellence in science teaching. He served on the Governor's Science Advisory Council. He was honored by The National Speleological Society in 1991 as one of the four founders of modern biospeleology.

Survivors include his wife Phyllis of Grinnell; his son Eric Christiansen of Portland, Oregon; his daughters and sons-in-law Karen and Kirk Worrall of Parkdale, Oregon, Paula Christiansen and Jose Gonzalez of Chicago, Illinois, and Diane Christiansen and Stephen Dawson of Chicago; five grandchildren; and one great grandchild.

A memorial gathering will be held at a later date. Memories and condolences may be shared with his family online at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com). Arrangements were entrusted to the Smith Funeral Home.