

John Andrew Gertsma

John Andrew Gertsma, 92, of Lynnville died Saturday, April 28, 2018, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A graveside service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, May 4, at Woodland Cemetery in Lynnville. The family will be present at the Wallace Family Funeral Home and Crematory in Newton from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 3. Memorials to the Lynnville Historical Society, where John was a member and volunteer, may be left at the funeral home.

John, the first born to Cecil Lowell and Ruth Fleener Gertsma, was born on March 26, 1926, at Mahaska Hospital in Oskaloosa. He came home to Lynnville from the hospital on the train. John attended the Lynnville Independent School and graduated in 1943; he was the last surviving member of his class. After graduation he worked as a driver for Dr. Cliff Sparks at Sully Veterinarians for one year. In October of 1944, he entered the U.S. Army

and served in Manilla and Tokyo in the general headquarters of General Douglas MacArthur, attaining the rank of S/Sgt. He was honorably discharged in November of 1946.

After being discharged, he returned to Iowa and received his Bachelors Degree from State University of Iowa in 1951. He worked for 3M in Chicago, moved to New Mexico and then to Mojave, Calif., to manage a service station. He later moved to Los Angeles, Calif., where he worked as a parking valet at Trader Vic's Restaurant and attended school to further his education. John then worked as a claims adjuster for Aetna Insurance until his retirement when he returned to his home in Lynnville. In 1975, he purchased Harris Boat's Store in Sully, changing the name to John's Market, and operated it until 1980.

John is survived by his brother, David Gertsma and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Laurence Gertsma. *CHP 4-30-2018*