Don Starnes

GRINNELL - Don Starnes, age 90 of Grinnell, died on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell.

Visitation will begin at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell and his family will receive friends from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

A funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. Interment will be at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell. Casket Bearers will be Jason Conn, Don Fleener, Trent Fleener, Brandt Fleener, Jack Conn, and Kyle Conn. Honorary Bearers will be Denise Fleener, Tracey Conn, Morgan Fleener, Sara Badillo, and Dawnette and Glenn Baker. A reception will follow at the St. Francis Social Center in Grinnell.

Memorials may be designated to St. Francis Manor Foundation and 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.

Donald Eugene Starnes was born on September 23, 1928 in Laurel, Iowa. He was raised and educated in Laurel and Grinnell, Iowa respectively. He later attended Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

Don was united in marriage to Ida Carter on June 12, 1945 in Montezuma, Iowa. The couple was blessed with a daughter, Fran and son, Larry. Don and Ida lived in Grinnell, where they owned and operated Starnes T.V. and Radio since 1952. They enjoyed traveling the world together and spending many years wintering down south in their RV.

Don was a hard-worker and was proof the American Dream is real. He started Starnes T.V. and Radio from an idea to becoming a household name in the area for decades. He was a family man that loved spending time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren at their lake home in Montezuma. He was an outdoorsman who enjoyed camping, fishing, hunting and boating. Don had a lifetime passion for flying airplanes and model airplanes. He will be remembered for being the protector of his family, a mechanical genius, and for the love of visiting with people.

Don is survived by his two children, Fran (Dean) Conn of Grinnell and Larry (Glenda) Starnes of Lake Havasu City, AZ; four grandchildren, Denise (Don) Fleener, Jason (Tracey) Conn, Craig Starnes, and Sara (Carlos) Badillo; seven great grandchildren, Trent, Morgan and Brandt Fleener; Jack and Kyle Conn, and Natalie and Emma Vega; and his siblings, Jackie Simpson, Dean (Joyce) Starnes, and Dick (Cathy) Starnes. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Ida in February 2017; and siblings, Jeanette Lender, Carol Evans, and Dennis Starnes.
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