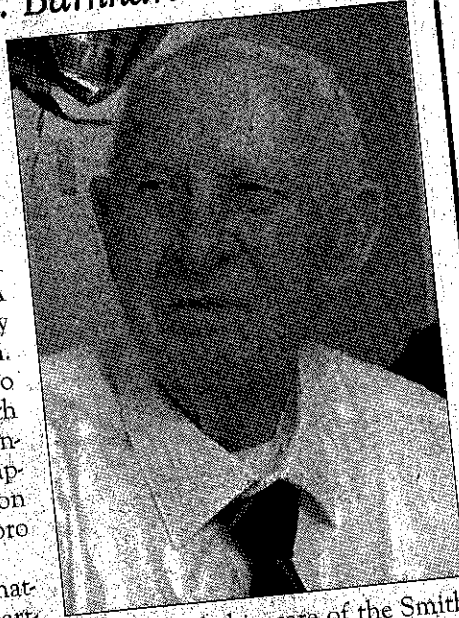


GH-R
4-29-2019

Merril P. Barnhart

Merril P. Barnhart, age 97 of Portland, Oregon, and formerly of Searsboro, Iowa, died on Sunday, April 21, 2019, in Portland.

A visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 3, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. A graveside service with military honors will held at 11:30 a.m. on Friday at the Searsboro Cemetery in Searsboro with Pastor John Epperson, Grinnell Regional Hospice Chaplain, officiating. A reception will follow at the Searsboro Community Center.



Memorials may be designated to the Grinnell Fire Department or the Searsboro Fire Department, mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family online at www.smithfh.com.

Merril Philip Barnhart was born the son of Philip J. and Mary E. (Livezey) Barnhart on January 18, 1922, in Searsboro, Iowa. He was raised in Searsboro and attended Searsboro High School. He graduated from the Elk River High School in Elk River, Minnesota, in 1939. Merrill joined the United States Coast Guard in 1943 in Portland, Oregon, and was a Motor Machinist's Mate First Class. He was honorably discharged in 1945 in San Francisco, California. He returned to Portland and was a career fireman of the Portland Fire Department, serving for over 31 years, retiring on February 2, 1972.

Merril liked to travel and he visited several places in the United States as well as many foreign countries. He liked to hunt pheasants, deer, and elk in the Northwest with his brother and friends. He enjoyed coming back to Iowa and Minnesota to visit his sisters and their families.

Merril is survived by his sister-in-law Elaine Barnhart of Sequim, Washington; niece, Katherine Arment of Grinnell; nephews, Douglas Barnhart of Poulso, Washington, Dale (Cyndi) Barnhart of Sequim, Washington, Dennis Watson of Searsboro, Douglas (Carol) Watson of Clear Lake, Larry (Karen) Kasheimer of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Kenneth (Patricia) Kasheimer of Madota Heights, Minnesota; and many great nieces and nephews and great great nieces and nephews and friends.

Merril was preceded in death by his parents; his sisters, Mabel (Joe) Watson, Glema (Arthur) Kasheimer, and Lola Barnhart; brother Duane Barnhart; and his niece, Karen (Watson) Fulayter.