

Ralph E. Lemke

GH-R 5-9-2019

Ralph E. Lemke, age 90 of Grinnell, died on Saturday, May 4, 2019 and left his earthly life while surrounded by many of his loving family and under the care of Grinnell Regional Hospice at the Mayflower Community Health Care Center in Grinnell.

Visitation will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, June 28, 2019 at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell and his family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. A private family graveside service will be held on Ralph and Shirley's anniversary, Saturday, June 29, 2019 at Pleasant Township Cemetery in Ewart.

Memorials may be designated to Grinnell Regional Hospice or to the Mayflower Community to benefit the new hospice rooms, 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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GH-R
6-24-2019

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Ralph Eugene Lemke was born the son of Herman and Edith (McMeekin) Lemke in rural Montezuma, Iowa, on September 17, 1928. He married the love of his life, Shirley Ogan, on June 29, 1947, in Montezuma. They resided in the Montezuma, Grinnell and Oskaloosa areas all of their married lives. To this union, Ralph and Shirley had 10 children together, four preceding them in death at young ages from cystic fibrosis, one given up for adoption, and five who survive them.

Ralph worked at Grinnell International Harvester as a diesel mechanic for years and then went to work for Grinnell Feed & Grain. He later worked for several years at Togle Farms in Grinnell. He then went to work for Grinnell Laundry, delivering dry cleaning items to various places, and an opportunity came to do the same in Oskaloosa, where they lived for 15 years. While living in Oskaloosa, he also provided lawn care for many families. They moved back to Grinnell to be closer to their children so they could help provide care for Shirley. Family was very important to Ralph and Shirley. He loved providing his kids with horses and going on trail rides and to horse shows. Ralph and Shirley enjoyed square dancing and camping.

Ralph is survived by his five children, Phillip (Cate) Lemke of Newton, Iowa, David Lemke of Grinnell, Rose Long of Springfield, Missouri, Melody (Mark) Bennett of Marshalltown, Iowa, and Lyle (Mary) Lemke of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; many grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren; brother, Calvin Lemke of Virginia; many nieces and nephews; brother-in-law, Ronnie (Virginia) Ogan of Osceola; and sister-in-law, Lois Ogan of Grinnell.

Ralph joins his wife, Shirley in heaven, where he has wanted to be since losing her to Alzheimer's in 2012; their children, LaWanna, Gloria, Daniel, and Darrell; brother-in-law, Ralph Ogan and his brothers and sisters, Dorothy Haines, Hazel Freeborn, Don, Earl, Leonard, Walter, Jim, and Marvin.

Lemke Ralph E

PCCR
6-19-2019

Ralph Lemke

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