

Harvey Mikel Jr.

Harvey Mikel Jr., 79, of Grinnell died Sunday, May 14, 2006, in Glendale, Ariz.

A celebration of life service will be held Saturday, May 27, at 10:30 a.m. at First Friends Church. Family members will be present at the church prior to the service beginning at 9 a.m. and they encourage family members and friends to bring a photo or short note to help create a memory book of Mr. Mikel's life.

He was born May 8, 1927, in Searsboro to Harvey and Rachel Mason Mikel Sr. He graduated from Grinnell High School with the class of 1946. He received the associate of science degree in computer and business science from the Business Institute of Waterloo in later life. During the Korean Conflict he was drafted as a conscientious objector and served as a medic transporting the wounded from the front lines of combat.

On Sept. 2, 1953, he was married to Mary Lou Ebert. They farmed in Chester Township and he also worked as a popular school bus driver in the Grinnell-Newburg School District. The couple also lived in Rockport, Texas, and Glendale, Ariz.

He was a member of First Friends Church of Grinnell, serving as a church clerk, elder, trustee, Sunday school teacher, greeter and usher. He also was a member of the Grinnell Rotary Club, the International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF), Toastmasters and the Farm Bureau. In addition, he was a member of the City of Grinnell Zoning Commission and the Grinnell School Board.

He had a lifetime interest in travel and enjoyed visits to family members in Spain, Nigeria, England and Mexico. He also enjoyed hosting Grinnell College international students as well as Rotary Club international students. He was an avid reader, a strong advocate of education and supported his children in their endeavors.

He is survived by his wife Mary Lou; his children Linda Hess of Bloomington, Ind.; Elaine Jolayemi of Phoenix, Ariz.; Martha Hong of West Windsor, N.J., and Glen Mikel of Des Moines; 12 grandchildren; one brother Wilford Mikel of Grinnell and one sister Eleanor Mikel of Montezuma. He was preceded in death by his parents, an infant sister Pauline and infant twin grandsons.