

Larry Crawford



OH- Feb 26, 2007

Larry Crawford, 81, of Grinnell died Thursday, Feb. 22, 2007 at St. Francis Manor.

A funeral service will be held Saturday, March 3, at 10:30 a.m. at Smith Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery in Tama.

Friends may call at Smith Funeral Home on Friday beginning at noon with family members present from 6 to 8 p.m. Memorials may be made to the Larry Crawford Memorial Fund in care of Smith Funeral Home.

He was born on March 31, 1925, in Tama, the son of Lawrence and Zola Fiala Crawford. He was raised in Tama and graduated from Tama High School in 1943.

Following his high school graduation, he was inducted into the U.S. Army. He served as a tank gunner with Gen. George Patton's Third Army and fought in battles in northern France and the Rhineland. He returned to Iowa after the war and enrolled in the Cummings School of Art in Des Moines.

He was employed for eight years at the Central Fibre Products Co. in Tama.

In 1956, he accepted the position of golf pro and course superintendent at the Grinnell Golf and Country Club. During his career as a golf professional in Grinnell, he was golf coach at Grinnell College for nine years and founded the state Pee Wee Golf Tournament held annually at the club. The tournament now bears his name.

He retired from his duties at the club in 1986 and spent winters in Pharr, Texas, and southern California.

On Nov. 3, 1997, he was inducted into the Iowa Golfer's Hall of Fame in Cedar Rapids.

He was a life member of the Grinnell Country Club, the PGA, the Iowa Golfer's Association and the American Legion of Tama. He was also charter member No. 15 of the Golf Collector's Society.

He is survived by a sister, Evelyn Carpenter of Anaheim, Calif.; and a brother, Harold Crawford of Marshalltown; two nieces; a great-nephew; and a great-niece.

He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant sister, Norma Jean Crawford.