

## James T. Higdon



James T. Higdon, 97, of Grinnell died Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A funeral mass was held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grinnell with the Rev. William Reynolds presiding. Music was provided by Marilyn Kriegel, organist, and the St. Mary's Choir. Pallbearers included Patrick and Peter McNally, Brian, John and Christopher Higdon, Jonathan Trebe and Samuel Schmitz. Burial was in Hazelwood Cemetery.

Born June 6, 1909, in Washington Township, he was the son of Louis E. and Catherine A. Devereux Higdon. He attended rural school near his home and was a 1925 graduate of St. Ambrose Academy in Davenport.

On Sept. 28, 1939, he married Ruth Baustian at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grinnell. The couple farmed on the family farm in Washington Township — which was recognized in 1976 as a Century Farm — and he was employed for many years as a substitute letter carrier. The couple later retired to Grinnell.

He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, where he was the oldest lifelong member of the Catholic community in Grinnell, including both St. Columbanus and St. Mary's Catholic Churches. He was a charter member of the Knights of Columbus in Newton, a life member of the Grinnell Elks Lodge and a former member of the Farm Bureau and the Holy Name Society. He served on the Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education and as a 4-H leader.

He is survived by his wife; five children, Karen McNally of Grinnell, Robert Higdon of Sycamore, Ill., Michael Higdon of North Pole, Ala., Paul of Maple Grove, Minn., and Mark of Des Moines; a brother, John Higdon, also of Grinnell; a sister, Mildred Schmitz of Lake City, Iowa; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; two step-great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Frank and Joseph; and three sisters, Sister M. Annette Higdon, Sister M. Louise Higdon and Elizabeth A. Goreham.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Grinnell Regional Hospice, Grinnell Regional Medical Center or St. Mary's Catholic Church Foundation.

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