Clifford Duncan

Clifford Duncan Jr., 82, of Grinnell died Monday, Dec. 10, 2007, at Iowa Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines.

A funeral service will be held Friday, Dec. 14, at 10:30 a.m. at Smith Funeral Home with the Rev. Len Eberhart, pastor of the Grinnell United Methodist Church, officiating. Honorary bearers will be Jennifer Worter, Kevin Nagel, Carie Simpkins, and Scott Akery. Burial will follow in Hazelwood Cemetery. Visitation will take place Thursday from 12 noon to 8 p.m. at Smith Funeral Home with family members present from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Grinnell Regional Hospice.

The son of Clifford H. and Hepsie Baugh Duncan, he was born June 30, 1925, in Riverside, Calif. At the age of 17 he joined the United States Navy during World War II and served in the Asiatic-Pacific theater on the USS Cowell. He was married to Barbara Roe on April 19, 1946, in the Gretna Green Chapel in Las Vegas, Nevada. The couple moved to Grinnell from California in 1947. He was employed with Armstrong Electric of Grinnell for 15 years, then opened his own electrical business, Duncan Electric. He retired about ten years ago but continued to do small jobs thereafter for another five years.

He enjoyed golfing in leagues, tournaments and in couples' tournaments with his wife. He also enjoyed camping and fishing trips to Minnesota and, when he was younger, many weekend fishing trips to the Iowa River with friends. He also enjoyed both flower and vegetable gardening. Most important to him was his family, to whom he was a mentor and helpful in many ways.

He was a lifetime member of the Grinnell Eagles Lodge and a member of the American Legion.

In 1986 he attended his first ship reunion in Las Vegas, meeting up with old friends, with several of whom he continued to keep in touch.

He is survived by his wife Barbara of Grinnell; four daughters, Hepsie Bywater of Long Island, N.Y., Dodie Telfer of Newton, Jackie Akery of Brooklyn and Ann Huggins of Siloam Springs, Ark.; four grandchildren and eight grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; three sisters, Merlyne, Annabelle and Ruby; three brothers, LeRoy, Ted and Clyde, and two grandsons.