

Richard V. Bailey



He was a member of the United Methodist Church, Elks Lodge and American Legion, all in Grinnell. He also was a member of Masonic Lodge #297 and the Scottish Rite in Lincoln, Neb. He was a recipient of the Bronze Jordan Medal as the oldest living Master Mason of Lodge #297 of which he was a member for 73 years.

Survivors include his daughters, Vickie Duede of Altoona and Jan Haller

of Kearney, his sister, Leora Norton of La Mirada, Calif., four grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife on May 20, 1998; his parents, one brother and one sister.

Richard V. "Vic" Bailey, 94, of Kearney, Neb., formerly of Grinnell, died Saturday, March 14, 2009, at St. John's Good Samaritan Center in Kearney.

No local services are planned. Graveside services will take place Saturday, April 11, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell. His family will be available at Smith Funeral Home one hour prior to the service.

Memorials are suggested to the United Methodist Church, or American Legion, both in Grinnell, or St. John's Good Samaritan Center in Kearney. On-line condolences or personal reflections may be submitted at www.osafh.com. O'Brien-Straatmann Funeral Home in Kearney and Smith Funeral Home of Grinnell are in charge of arrangements.

He was born May 17, 1914 in Humboldt, Neb., to Arthur and Emma Sodman Bailey. He grew up in Lincoln, Neb., and graduated from Bethany High School. He attended Cotner College and Nebraska Wesleyan University where he lettered in football, basketball and track. He received his bachelor's degree in 1937. On March 13, 1941, he was married to Mildred J. Wilson in Des Moines and they resided in Grinnell.

He entered the United States Army Air Corps on Oct. 30, 1942, and was honorably discharged on Nov. 15, 1945. He returned to Grinnell and worked as a salesman for Swift & Co. until his retirement. After the death of his wife, he moved to Kearney in 2002 where he was a resident of St. John's Good Samaritan Center.