
OBITUARIES PCCR Mar 11, 2009

Curtis D. Ferneau, 82

Curtis D. Ferneau, 82, of Grinnell, died Friday, March 6, 2009, at his home.

A funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 10, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. Carolyn Bittner, pastor of the Malcom Sheridan United Methodist Church, officiating. Interment was in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Memorials may be directed to the Sheridan Methodist Church or to Grinnell Regional Hospice.

The family encourages friends to share memories and condolences on his obituary page at www.smithfh.com.

Curtis Dean Ferneau (Ol' Curt) was born Jan. 4, 1927, in Highland Township, Tama County, to Glen and Marie Ferneau. He attended Tama County and Poweshiek County rural schools. He graduated from Grinnell High School in 1947. In October, 1950, he entered the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany during the Korean conflict. Curtis married Betty Hunter on Jan. 23, 1955, and they became the parents of four adopted children.

Curt loved to hunt, and he started hunting and trapping as a young child. He was a very accurate shot. The "Turkey Track" acreage in Missouri was Curt's hunting haven that was enjoyed by many. Curt visited his many friends while he was there, and he made new friends through hunting.

Curt attended Sheridan United Methodist church for many years, teaching Sunday School for 40 years and doing several sermons. He was an avid reader, enjoying conservation articles, western books, hunting, and farming magazines. He wrote many memoirs of his life.

Curt was an innovative farmer: He implemented what were considered cutting-edge farming practices, such as no-till farming. He was a salesman for Northrup King Company for 29 years, winning several regional and national awards. His self-proclaimed "bonus years" were after Curt had life threatening meningitis in 1999. This left him so weak he had to quit active farming but gained a renewal on life.

Those left to mourn are his wife, Betty, of 54 years; his children, Kirk Ferneau (Leslie) of Grinnell, Heidi Ferneau of Grinnell, and Joni Ferneau Brown (Steve) of Lombard, Ill.; his eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren; his four sisters, Naomi DeHart of Kellogg, Glenda Beaver of Bashaw, Alberta, Canada, Sharon Wassom of Bowling Green, Ky., Beverly Bryan of Newton; and one brother, David Ferneau of Malcom.

Preceding him in death were his son, Jonathan; his parents, Glen and Marie Ferneau; and his brothers-in-law, Wayne Anderson and Ken Bryan.



HR Mar 9, 2009

Curtis D. Ferneau

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A funeral service will be held Tuesday, March 10, at 10:30 a.m. at Smith Funeral Home with the Rev. Carolyn Bittner, pastor of Malcom-Sheridan United Methodist Church, officiating. Interment will be in Hazelwood Cemetery.

Friends may call at Smith Funeral Home Monday beginning at 12 noon with family members present from 5 to 8 p.m. Memorials may be made to Sheridan Methodist Church or Grinnell Regional Hospice.