

Merland Smith Pfantz, 80

Merland S. Pfantz, age 80, of Grinnell, died Sunday, June 21, 2009, at his home.

A funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, June 25, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. Walt Claussen, pastor of the Newburg-Chester Congregational Church, officiating. Interment was in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Memorials may be directed to the American Lung Association, 1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20004. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.smithfh.com.



Merland Smith Pfantz was born the son of Albert Lewis Pfantz and Elvira Elizabeth Smith, on Dec. 21, 1928, in State Center. He was raised in State Center and attended St. John's Parochial School north of State Center. He graduated from State Center High School with the class of 1947. He honorably served his country as a corporal in the United States Army during the Korean War from 1952 until 1954. He was united in marriage to Carol Farley on Dec. 28, 1955, at Trinity Lutheran Church north of Malcom. Following their marriage, Mert began farming in the Ewart area, and Carol was a school teacher. In 1969, they moved west of Malcom and farmed there for several years. In March of 1997, they moved to Grinnell.

Mert had a keen sense of humor and was an excellent storyteller. His love of his country and the land was shown through his patriotism and his passion of farming. His enjoyments included dancing, collecting red toy tractors, and rooting for the Iowa Hawkeyes.

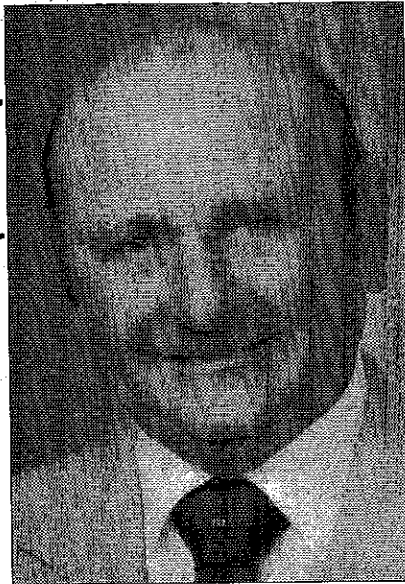
Mert is survived by his wife of 53 years, Carol Pfantz of Grinnell; his brother, Don (Joan) Pfantz of Melbourne; his sisters, Geri Kuhl of Marshalltown, and Joleen (Wayne) Terrell of Waterloo; and several nieces and nephews.

Mert was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Louis Emery Pfantz in 1957; his brothers, Glen and Marvin; a brother-in-law, Richard Kuhl; and his great-nephew, Chad Pfantz.

PCCR Jul 1, 2009

Merland S. Pfantz

GHR Jun 29, 2009



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