

R.W. Van Draska, 83

R.W. Van Draska, age 83, of Grinnell, died Saturday, April 4, 2009, at Friendship Manor Care Center in Grinnell.

A memorial service was held at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 8, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell, with the Rev. John Epperson, pastor of the Grinnell Christian Church, officiating.

Memorials may be directed to the Grinnell Christian Church.

Memories and condolences may be sent to the family on the Smith Funeral Home Web site at www.smithfh.com.

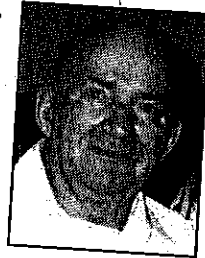
Richard Wayne Van Draska was born the son of Arthur and Eleanor (Peterson) Van Draska on Oct. 1, 1925, in Tama. He was raised and educated in Grinnell.

R.W. was united in marriage to Dorothy Revea Vieth on June 11, 1971, in Grinnell. The couple resided in Grinnell following their marriage. R.W. was employed with R.D. Stewart Construction Company for over 20 years.

R.W. dearly loved his grandchildren, and he held a special love for his dog, Bandit. He was an outdoorsman who enjoyed camping and fishing, especially at Diamond Lake near Montezuma. He was a race fan and he traveled down to Florida annually to watch the Daytona 500 with his friends. His other enjoyments included solving puzzles, traveling, and gambling at Meskwaki Casino in Tama.

R.W. is survived by his children, Carol Vaughn of Bloomfield, and Linda (Gael) Doane of Grinnell; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; his sisters, Ruth (Jim) Waller of Mesquite, Texas, Donna (Ray) Meldrem of Grinnell, Shirley (Loy) Frasier of Mineola, Texas, and Helen O'Brien of Huntington Beach, Calif.; and his brother, Jim (Sandy) Van Draska of Grinnell.

R.W. was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Revea Van Draska, on June 11, 1996; son, Leonard Vanderveer on May 6, 1994; and his brother, Dale Van Draska on May 7,



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Apr 15, 2009