

Richard N. Olson



H-R 4-9-2001

Richard N. Olson, 73, of Grinnell died of an aneurysm Friday, April 6, at his home.

Funeral services were conducted Monday at the Smith Funeral Home, with the Rev. Tim Stewart of the First Baptist Church officiating. Organist was Denise Baustian, and soloist was Connie Doud Flanagan. Pallbearers were Donald and Chris McKeag, Shawn Lang, Jerry Lee and Michael Thede, and Craig Maasdam. Honorary bearers were William Hill, Chris Lang, Robert Hoskins and Robert Modlin.

Military rites were conducted by members of the Grinnell American Legion at Hazelwood Cemetery.

He was the son of Carl and Blanche Beason Olson and was born March 21, 1928, in Grinnell. He received his education in Grinnell.

He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1945 and served in World War II, Korea and, for two terms, in Vietnam. During his career in the Marine Corps, 1st Sgt. Olson was based in Corpus Christi, Texas.

He was married to Dorothy Doud Jan. 31, 1971, in West Liberty. They lived briefly in Marshalltown and Florida prior to moving to Grinnell in 1973.

Mr. Olson was employed as a heavy-equipment operator in Des Moines and Chicago until his retirement in 1993. He was a member of the Grinnell American Legion and attended the Grinnell First Baptist Church.

Surviving are his wife; one son from a prior marriage, Ricky of Jackson, Miss.; four stepchildren, Ron McKeag of Sully, Rose Mary Osland of Peoria, Ariz., Marcia Merty of Traer and Linda Lang of Marion; two brothers, Laverne of Grinnell and Larry of Jonesboro, Ark.; one sister, Donna Mae Simpson of West Liberty; 15 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren.

His parents and one grandson preceded him in death.