

H-R JUNE 2, 2003

O. Eugene Smith



O. Eugene Smith, 73, of Grand Junction, Colo., died on Friday, May 30, at his home.

Funeral services will be held Friday, June 6, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. Interment will be at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell, with military honors.

Friends may call at the Smith Funeral Home beginning at 9 a.m. on Thursday; family will be present at the funeral home from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday.

O. Eugene Smith was born on June 20, 1929, in Grinnell to O. Dale and Florence A. Henderson Smith. He was raised in Grinnell and graduated from Grinnell High School with the class of 1947. He attended Monmouth College and the University of Iowa prior to entering the U.S. Air Force. He was stationed in Germany and France during his service, and returned to Grinnell following his discharge in August of 1954.

On Nov. 26, 1955, he married Darlene Koehn at St. James Lutheran Church in Victor. The couple lived in Minneapolis, where he received a degree in mortuary science from the University of Minnesota.

Following his education, he was associated with his father and his brother, Robert, in the operation of Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell.

While he lived in Grinnell, he was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church and the Grinnell Airport Board, and was a past president of the Grinnell Rotary Club.

The family moved to Colorado Springs, Colo., in 1969, where he was associated with the Law Mortuary and worked in the real estate business.

The couple moved to Grand Junction in 1998 and he worked part-time for the Timberline Aviation Company. He was also a member of the Lutheran Church of the Messiah in Grand Junction.

He is survived by his wife; five daughters, Mindy Heine of Sheridan, Wyo, Marcy Keyser of Montrose, Colo., Martha Franke of Lajes Field, the Azores, Portugal, Maria Verble of Grand Junction and Michelle Goad of Windsor, Colo.; 12 grandchildren; and his brother.

His parents and one son, Brian T. Smith, preceded him in death.

Memorials may be made to either the Messiah Lutheran Church, 840 N. 11th St., Grand Junction, Colo. 81501, or to Hospice of Grand Junction, P.O.