

William R. Sopher

William R. Sopher, 89, of Grinnell died Saturday, Jan. 4, 2003, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center of congestive heart failure.

A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 8, at the Grinnell First Presbyterian Church. Burial will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Grinnell First Presbyterian Church or Alzheimer's Association. Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell is handling the arrangements.

Survivors include his wife, Cleo of Grinnell; three daughters, Janice Peak of Newburg, Kim Greenberg of Grinnell, and Vicki Sopher of Chicago; three sons, Rene Sopher of Novi, Mich.,

Bruce Sopher of Chapin, S.C., and Barry Sopher of Metuchen, N.J.

H-R Jan. 6, 2003

William R. Sopher

William Ritchie Sopher, 89, of Grinnell died Jan. 4, 2003, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center of congestive heart failure.

A memorial service was held Jan. 8 at First Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Michael Smith, pastor of the church, and the Rev. Bob Spurgin, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Taylorville, Ill., officiating. Organist was Sylvia Thorson-Smith and vocal music was by Ed Phillips. Burial will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to First Presbyterian Church, Grinnell, or to the Alzheimer's Association.

He was born June 18, 1913, to Jessie and Harry Sopher in Duluth, Minn. As a youth he lived in Iron River, Mich.; Peoria, Ill., and Fort Madison. He was a 1931 graduate of Roosevelt High School in Des Moines as the center of the Iowa State Champion Rough Rider basketball team.

He was married on Dec 6, 1936, in Lancaster, Mo., to Clio Hunter. During World II he served with the United States Marine Corps in Dutch Harbor, Alaska. He was an agent for the Prudential Insurance Company in Fort Madison for 38 years until his retirement in 1976. The couple moved to Grinnell in 1997.

He was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church and for many years active in the Masonic Lodge, the Lee County Historical Society and the Old Fort Genealogical Society.

He was interested in crossword puzzles, travel and camping, and was a volunteer with Hospice, Meals on Wheels and RSVP. After moving to Grinnell he was a volunteer at Caring Adults.

He is survived by his wife Clio of Grinnell; four daughters, Rene Sopher of Novi, Mich., Janis Peak of Newburg, Vicki Sopher of Chicago, Ill., and Kim Greenberg of Grinnell; two sons, Bruce Sopher, Chapin, S.C., and Barry Sopher of Metuchen, N.J., and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister Mary Spurgin.

H-R Jan. 9, 2003