

Bill Burk

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7-15-2013



Bill Burk, 92, of Grinnell, died Friday, July 12, 2013, at the Grinnell Health Care Center.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 16, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Grinnell with the Rev. Kathryn Roys officiating. Interment will be in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Visitation was Monday at the Smith Funeral Home with the family present to greet friends in the evening.

Memorials may be designated to Grinnell Home Health, St. John's Lutheran Church or to the donor's choice. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family on the Smith Funeral Home website at www.smithfh.com.

Emil William Burk, Jr. was born on April 28, 1921, in Brooklyn, the son of Emil W. Burk, Sr. and Mildred Bard Burk. He was raised in Brooklyn until the family moved to Grinnell, where he graduated from Grinnell High School with the class of 1940.

He was drafted and honorably served in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II. On June 29, 1942, he was united in marriage with Irene D. Brandeland in Kirksville, Mo. The couple lived in Grinnell and Bill owned and operated Burk Garage and Towing, a business he entered into in 1946.

Bill placed a high priority on family and their accomplishments, and was proud all five of his children received college degrees. Always "on call" throughout his working life, many local residents have stories of when Bill pulled them out of a ditch. He was gifted in the mechanics of engines and of "enhancing" his own towing equipment to get the job done well. Bill was an avid fisherman who also enjoyed pheasant hunting. He was a master at the barbeque grill and enjoyed the company of others. Going for coffee was a ritual throughout his adult life and for years he has been a fixture at the local Maid Rite (Montgomery's).

Bill is survived by his children Bill Burk of East Hartford, Conn., Deborah Rodgers of Albany, Ind., Richard Burk of Casper, Wyo., Michael Burk of Iowa City, and Robert Burk of Omaha, Neb.; seven grandchildren; and one brother, Donald Burk of Des Moines.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Irene, and by his parents.