Vernon R. Graham



Vernon R. Graham, 79, of Grinnell died Friday, April 2, 2010, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, April 7, at Grinnell United Methodist Church with the Rev. Walt Claussen, pastor of Newburg-Chester Congregational Church, officiating. Organist was Kathleen Heffner. Casket bearers were Doug Allen, Dennis Conway, David Kaisand, Ken McMains, Royal Roland and Roger Smith. Honorary bearers were Val Courter, Betty Hammond, Howard McDonough, Maynard Raffety and Larry Wilson. Interment was in Hazelwood Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Newburg-Chester Congregational Church or to the Odd Fellows Lodge.

He was born March 5, 1931, in Grinnell, the son of Earl and Laura Belle Copeland Graham. He was raised on the family farm, rural Grinnell, and attended Chester #2 School. He graduated from Newburg High School in 1948.

On Dec. 5, 1954, he was united in marriage with Phyllis Darlene Kirby in Newburg. They operated a grain and livestock farm in Chester Township until moving recently to Seeland Park in Grinnell.

He was a member of the Newburg-Chester Congregational Church. He had served on several committees including the Poweshiek County Extension Council and the Poweshiek County 4-H Council; for 12 years on the Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education; the board of directors of St. Francis Manor and board of directors of Seeland Park. He was a member of the Farm Bureau, the Grinnell Elks Lodge, Sonora Grange and the International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F).

He is survived by his wife Phyllis Graham of Grinnell; one son David Graham of Grinnell; three grandchildren; two great grandchildren; one sister Loretta Siebke of Davenport and two brothers, George Graham of Grinnell and Duane Graham of Bloomington, Minn. He was preceded in death by his parents; one son Ronald; an infant grandson; and one sister,

Eulice Fabacher.

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A funeral service will be held Wednesday, April 7, at 10:30 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Grinnell with interment following at Hazelwood Cemetery. Friends may call at Smith Funeral Home Tuesday beginning at noon with family members present from 5 to 8 pm.

Memorials may be made to Newburg-Chester Congregational Church or to the Odd Fellows Lodge of Grinnell

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Memorials may be directed to the Newburg-Chester Congregational Church or to the Odd Fellows Lodge of Grinnell.

Vernon was born on March 5, 1931, in Grinnell, to Earl and Laura Belle Copeland Graham. He was raised on the family farm near Grinnell and attended Chester #2 School. In 1948, he graduated from Newburg High School.

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He was a member of the Newburg-Chester Congregational Church. He served on various Poweshiek County committees, including the Extension Council and the 4-H Council. He also served for 12 years on the Grinnell-Newburg School Board, the St. Francis Manor Board and the Seeland Park Board. Vernon was a member of the Farm Bureau, the Elks Lodge of Grinnell, the Sonora Grange, and the I.O.O.F. Lodge of Grinnell.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis Graham of Grinnell; one son, David (Debra) Graham of Grinnell; one daughterin-law, Mary Van Zee of Grinnell; three grandchildren, Laura (Jason Harmer) Graham, Patricia (Cody) Stoaks and Samantha Graham; two great-grandchildren, Skyler and Lilly Stoaks; one sister, Loretta Siebke of Davenport; and two brothers, George Graham of Grinnell and Duane Graham of Bloomington, Minn.

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