Hugh K. Louden



Hugh Keil Louden of Grinnell, a farmer, community leader, devoted husband, father and grandfather, died Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010, at the Mayflower Community in Grinnell.

A celebration of his life will be held Saturday afternoon, Jan. 16, at his farm home, 6839 Highway T-38. Interment at Hazelwood Cemetery will take place at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the Jasper County Conservation Board % Gordon Louden, 911 High St. Grinnell IA 50112.

He was born in Grinnell on July 11, 1914, the son of Carl Edward and Minnie Keil Louden. He lived his entire life in the Grinnell area, graduating from Newburg High School in 1932 as salutatorian. He was united in marriage with his high school sweetheart, Maxine Newcomer, on April 7, 1935. They shared a life of farming, family, community service and travel for the next 62 years.

He began farming as a third generation Duroc Hog breeder in 1935 and had many prize-winning hogs throughout the Midwest.

He devoted his life to improving farming relationships both locally and internationally. One of the highlights of his life was a trip to the Soviet Union in 1960 as a participant in the People to People Agricultural Tour. Another was a visit to Yaminashi prefecture, City of Kofu, Japan, as an ambassador from Iowa to its Sister City.

He was active in the farming community including Jasper County 4-H Club, Farm Bureau and the Newburg Church. He was a member of Kiwanis Club for many years and served as lieutenant governor for Division 10 in 1982.

He and his wife Maxine also hosted many international dignitaries through the United States State Department program, "Experiment in International Living" and enjoyed their many

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conversations with international guests on farming operations. They have written a book entitled "Our Legacy" which can be found at the Drake Community Library in Grinnell.

He is survived by his daughter, hinda Long of Bentonville, Ark.; his son Gordon Louden of Grinnell; his daughter Regina Louden of San Diego, Calif.; his brother, Warren Louden of Grinnell; four grandchildren, Annette Harrison of Congo, Africa; Emily Schultz and Ben Louden of Grinnell and Amy Schmidt of Columbus, Ohio; and eight great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Maxine; one grandson, Arne Long; and his brothers, Charles and Donald.