

## C.J. 'Duke' McCurry



He was a past commander of the Grinnell American Legion; a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Grinnell Elks Lodge; past president of Cole County Extension in Jefferson City, Mo.; a former member of the advisory council for the Extension Service at the University of Missouri; a member and past president of Rotary Clubs in Columbus, Neb., and Columbia and Jefferson City, Mo.; and former president of the Parent/Teacher Association at the Columbus Middle School.

He was a track official for 20 years at the University of Missouri.

He attended the 1972 Olympic Games in Germany with a group of USA track officials.

In retirement, he was well known for his volunteer efforts throughout the community.

He is survived by his wife; his son and daughter, Kenneth L. McCurry and Cynthia Lee McCurry, both of Grinnell; two grandchildren; one great grandchild; and his brother Jerry McCurry of Knoxville. He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Gene McCurry, and one sister, Evelyn Sheeler.

C.J. "Duke" McCurry, 86, of Grinnell died Thursday, May 27, 2010, at his home.

Services have been postponed because of an illness in his family, and will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to First Friends Church in Grinnell or to Quaker Heights in Eldora.

He was born on May 8, 1924, in Grinnell, the son of Fred Hayse and Emma Mae Lincoln McCurry, and was raised in Grinnell, graduating from Grinnell High School in 1941.

He was a veteran of the United States Army during World War II, serving in the European Theater. He fought in battles in the Rhineland, Central Europe and the Ardennes-Alsace, and was decorated with three Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart with Oak-Leaf Cluster. He was a prisoner of war near the end of the war, walking to freedom on May 8, 1945.

He was united in marriage with Mary "Lee" Thompson on July 26, 1942, in Kirksville, Mo. They resided in Grinnell where he attended Grinnell College and was employed in several businesses. He began a career with GTE in 1958 during which he was employed in several communities in Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri, specializing in customer services. At the time of his retirement in 1987 he was vice president of the Missouri Telephone Association, later moving to Grinnell.