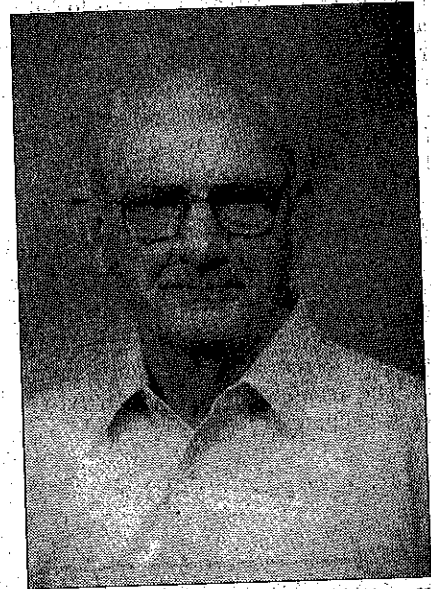


James 'Joe' Pierce



James "Joe" Pierce, 85, of Grinnell died Saturday, Nov. 29, 2008, at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines.

A funeral mass was held Wednesday, Dec. 3, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, with the Rev. Nick Adam officiating. Eulogists were the Revs. Walt and John Claussen. Organist was Marilyn Kriegel and vocalist was Mark Dunnick. Pallbearers were Jessica Pierce, Erica Kelderman, Leslie Nehring, Myra Hangartner, Aaron Walker, Michael Hangartner, and Adam Walker. Burial was in Hazelwood Cemetery.

A scripture service was held Tuesday evening at Smith Funeral Home. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary's Catholic Church or Kellogg Historical Society.

He was born Nov. 18, 1923, in Grinnell, the son of Robert and Addie Reavis Pierce. He was a 1941 graduate of Grinnell High School. He was a veteran of the United States Army Air Force during World War II having served with the 8th Air Force, 303rd Bomb Group in Molesworth, England. He was a ball turret gunner on a B-17 and was a member of the Caterpillar Club for having had to bail out of his bomber safely during a mission.

On Jan. 1, 1950, he was united in marriage with Mary Patricia Hotchkin at St. Mary's Catholic Church Rectory in Grinnell. The couple made their home in Grinnell. He was employed for nearly 22 years as a meat cutter at McNally's Grocery Store. He then was employed for six years at Grinnell College and retired from there in 1989. During his retirement he enjoyed working as a greenskeeper at the Grinnell Country Club.

He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Newburg American Legion, and the Grinnell VFW, where he was acting commander. He was an avid sports fan and particularly enjoyed following the Iowa Hawkeyes. He enjoyed traveling and his many trips to Branson, the Black Hills, and family vacations to visit family members in other states. Survivors include his wife, Pat of Grinnell; four children, Mary Jo Hangartner of Decorah, Dawna Elliott of Grinnell, Jim Pierce of Kellogg, and Terri Walker of Des Moines; seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and two sisters, Mae Graham and Ruth Dunnick, both of Grinnell. He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Floyd and Francis Pierce, and two sisters, Pauline Claussen and Patty Barron.

Dec 4, 2008 HR